



## **Representation Review Report**

Prepared in accordance with  
Section 12(8a) of the Local Government Act 1999

October 2016

**Prepared for the City of Playford by C L Rowe and Associates Pty Ltd, October 2016 (Version 1)**

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## 1. Introduction

Section 12(4) of the Local Government Act 1999 (the Act) requires each Council to undertake a review of all aspects of its composition and the division (or potential division) of the Council area into wards, as prescribed by the Minister from time to time by a notice published in the Government Gazette.

The City of Playford last completed an “elector representation review” in November 2009 and is now required to undertake and complete another review by April 2017, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (General) Regulations 1999, so as to ensure fair and equitable representation of all electors prior to the 2018 Local Government elections.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 12 (8a) of the Act. It:

- provides information regarding the initial public consultation undertaken by Council and Council’s response to the issues raised within the submissions received;
- sets out the proposal that Council considers should be carried into effect; and
- presents an analysis of how Council’s proposal relates to the relevant provisions and principles of the Act.

The key issues that need to be addressed during the review include:

- the principal member of Council, more specifically whether it should be a mayor elected by the community or a chairperson selected by (and from amongst) the elected members;
- the composition of council, including the number of elected members required to provide fair and adequate representation to the community and the need for area councillors in addition to ward councillors (where the Council area is to be divided into wards);
- the division of the Council area into wards or the abolition of wards; and
- if wards are to be retained, the level of ward representation within, and the names of, any future proposed wards.

## 2. Background

Council currently comprises an elected Mayor and fifteen ward councillors. The Council area is divided into six wards (refer Map 1), with wards numbers 1, 2 and 4 each being represented by three councillors and the remaining wards each being represented by two councillors. The current structure, which was adopted by Council during the elector representation review undertaken in 2008/2009, came into effect at the 2010 Local Government elections.

Table 1 provides data pertaining to the number of electors within each of the current wards and demonstrates the variance between the ward elector ratios and the elector ratio for the Council area.

Table 1: Elector data per ward and variance to quota

Ward	Crs	H of A Roll	Council Roll	Electors	Ratio	% Variance
Ward 1	3	14,959	28	14,987	1:4,996	+33.6
Ward 2	3	11,477	19	11,496	1:3,832	+ 2.5
Ward 3	2	6,452	3	6,455	1:3,228	- 13.7
Ward 4	3	9,977	15	9,992	1:3,331	- 10.9
Ward 5	2	6,302	13	6,315	1:3,158	- 15.6
Ward 6	2	6,838	4	6,842	1:3,421	- 8.5
<b>Total</b>	15	56,005	82	56,087		
<b>Average</b>					1:3,739	

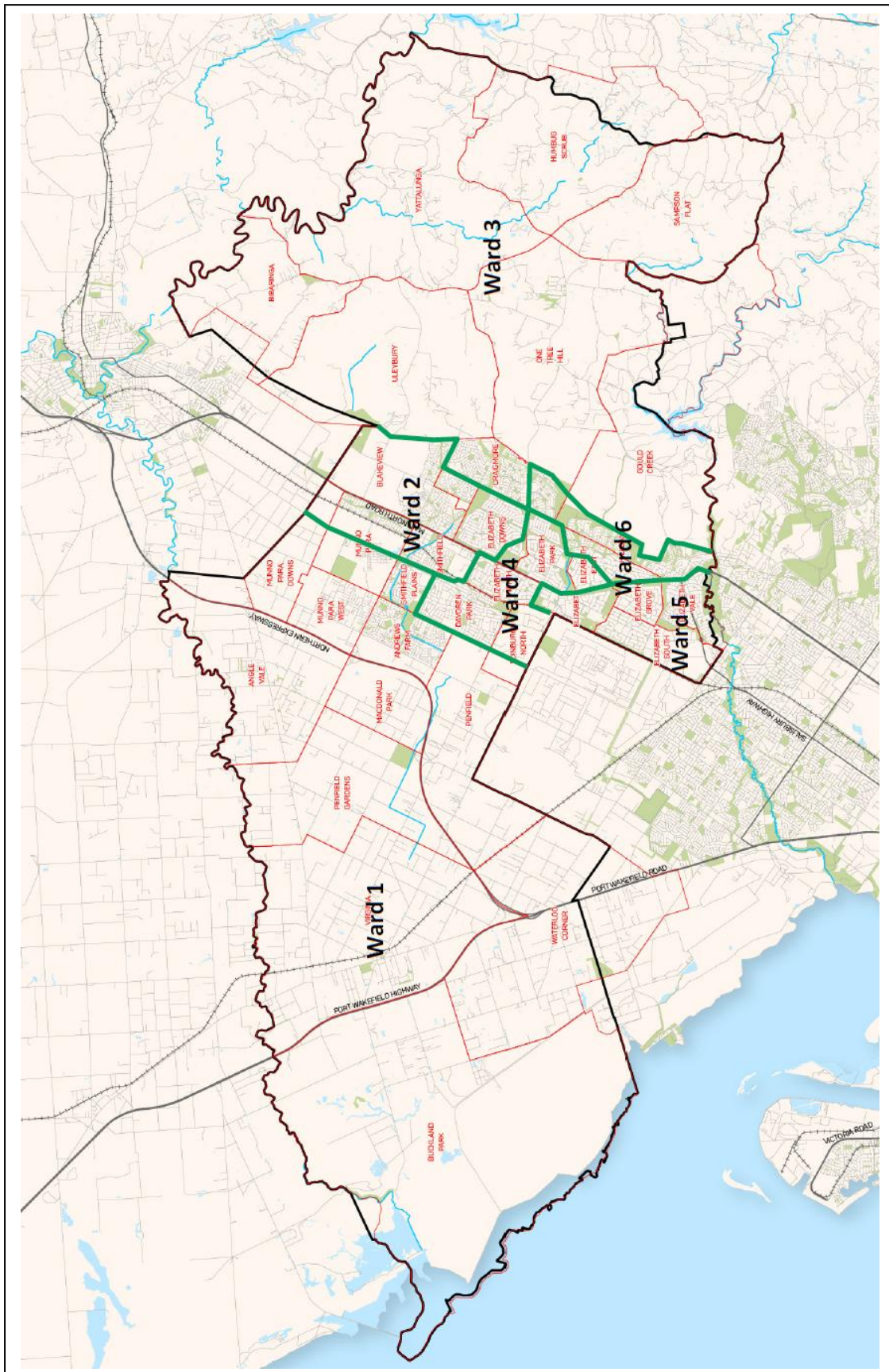
Source: Electoral Commission SA, House of Assembly Roll (February 2016)  
Council Voters Roll (3rd March 2016)

The current structure cannot be retained because the elector ratio (i.e. the average number of electors represented by a councillor) within wards numbers 1, 3, 4 and 5 lay outside the specified 10% quota tolerance limit prescribed under Section 33(2) of the Act (refer 6.1 Quota, page 14).

Council commenced its elector representation review in November 2015 and completed the initial six (6) week public consultation period on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2016. Five submissions were received.

At its meeting on the (insert date) 2016, Council considered all matters relevant to the review, including the public submission received, and resolved to agree, in principle, to retain an elected mayor as the principal member of Council; to retain fifteen councillors; and introduce a new five ward structure with the view of providing fair and adequate representation to the community.

Map 1: Current Ward Structure



### 3. Initial Public Consultation

Public consultation commenced on Wednesday 8th June 2016 with the publishing of public notices in the "Northern Messenger" and "The Bunyip" newspapers, followed by the publishing of a notice in the Government Gazette on Thursday 9th June 2016 and the "One Tree Hill Grapevine" (July edition). In addition, the public consultation process included promotion of the review (and the opportunity for electronic feedback) on the Council website and Face book page; the provision of copies of the Representation Options Paper and associated documents at the Council Operations Centre, the Civic Centre and the Stretton Centre; and the display of posters at the John McVeity Centres, the Grenville Community Connections Hub and the Community Food Cooperative at Davoren Park.

At the expiration of the public consultation period (i.e. close of business on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2016) Council had received five submissions, a summary of which is as follows.

Name	Comments
Betty Alberton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retain an elected mayor.</li> <li>• Divide the Council area into five wards (as per Option 2 but with one less councillor in proposed ward 1).</li> <li>• Favoured a reduction to fourteen councillors.</li> <li>• The suburbs of Davoren Park, Smithfield Plains and Edinburgh Park North should be in the same ward.</li> <li>• Do not divide suburbs between wards.</li> <li>• Wards should be identified by numbers.</li> </ul>
Coral Gooley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retain an elected mayor and fifteen councillors.</li> <li>• Divide the Council area into wards (no more than five).</li> <li>• The suburbs of Davoren Park and Smithfield Plains should be in the same ward, and not in a rural ward.</li> <li>• Wards should be identified by numbers.</li> <li>• Experienced difficulty identifying proposed ward boundaries and suggested the need for a public meeting to provide more detailed information.</li> </ul>
Shirley Harris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retain an elected mayor.</li> <li>• Divide the Council area into five wards.</li> <li>• Favoured a reduction to thirteen councillors.</li> <li>• Do not divide suburbs between wards.</li> <li>• Wards should be identified by numbers.</li> </ul>
Ronald Jones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Favoured a chairperson; the division of the Council area into four wards (as per Option 4); and a reduction to thirteen councillors.</li> <li>• Wards should be identified by numbers.</li> <li>• Boundaries on Option maps difficult to identify.</li> </ul>

Name	Comments
Harvey Foster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retain the elected mayor.</li> <li>• Divide the Council area into four wards.</li> <li>• Reduce the number of councillors to twelve.</li> <li>• Suggested Playford North, Playford South, Playford East and Playford West as potential ward names.</li> <li>• Provided general comments and opinions about a range of issues (not specifically related to the review).</li> </ul>

Council recognizes that five submissions is not a statistically valid response for a community which comprises over 56,000 electors, however, the submissions did enable Council to gain some insight into the views of the community in regards to the key issues of the principal member; wards/no wards; and elected member numbers.

Council's comments regarding the key issues of the review and the submissions received are provided hereinafter.



## 4. Proposal

Having duly considered all relevant provisions of the Local Government Act 1999, the information and alternatives contained within the Representation Options Paper and the matters raised in the written submissions, Council proposes the following in respect to its future composition and structure.

- The principal member of Council continues to be a mayor, elected by the community.
- The Council area continues to be divided into wards.
- The Council area be divided into five (5) wards, as described hereinafter and depicted on Map 2, with each of the proposed wards being represented by three ward councillors.
- The future elected body of Council comprise the Mayor and fifteen (15) ward councillors.
- The proposed wards continue to be identified by numbers (i.e. Ward 1 – Ward 5).

The proposed wards are described as follows.

Ward 1: Comprising the suburbs of Buckland Park, Waterloo Corner, Virginia, Penfield Gardens, Penfield, MacDonald Park, Andrews Farm and Smithfield Plains; and parts of the suburbs of Angle Vale (to the west of the Northern Expressway) and Edinburgh North.

Ward 2: Comprising the suburbs of Munno Para Downs, Munno Para West, Munno Para and Smithfield; and parts of the suburb of Blakeview and Angle Vale (to the east of the Northern Expressway).

Ward 3: Comprising the suburbs of Davoren Park, Elizabeth North, Elizabeth, Elizabeth South and Elizabeth Vale; and part of the suburb of Edinburgh North.

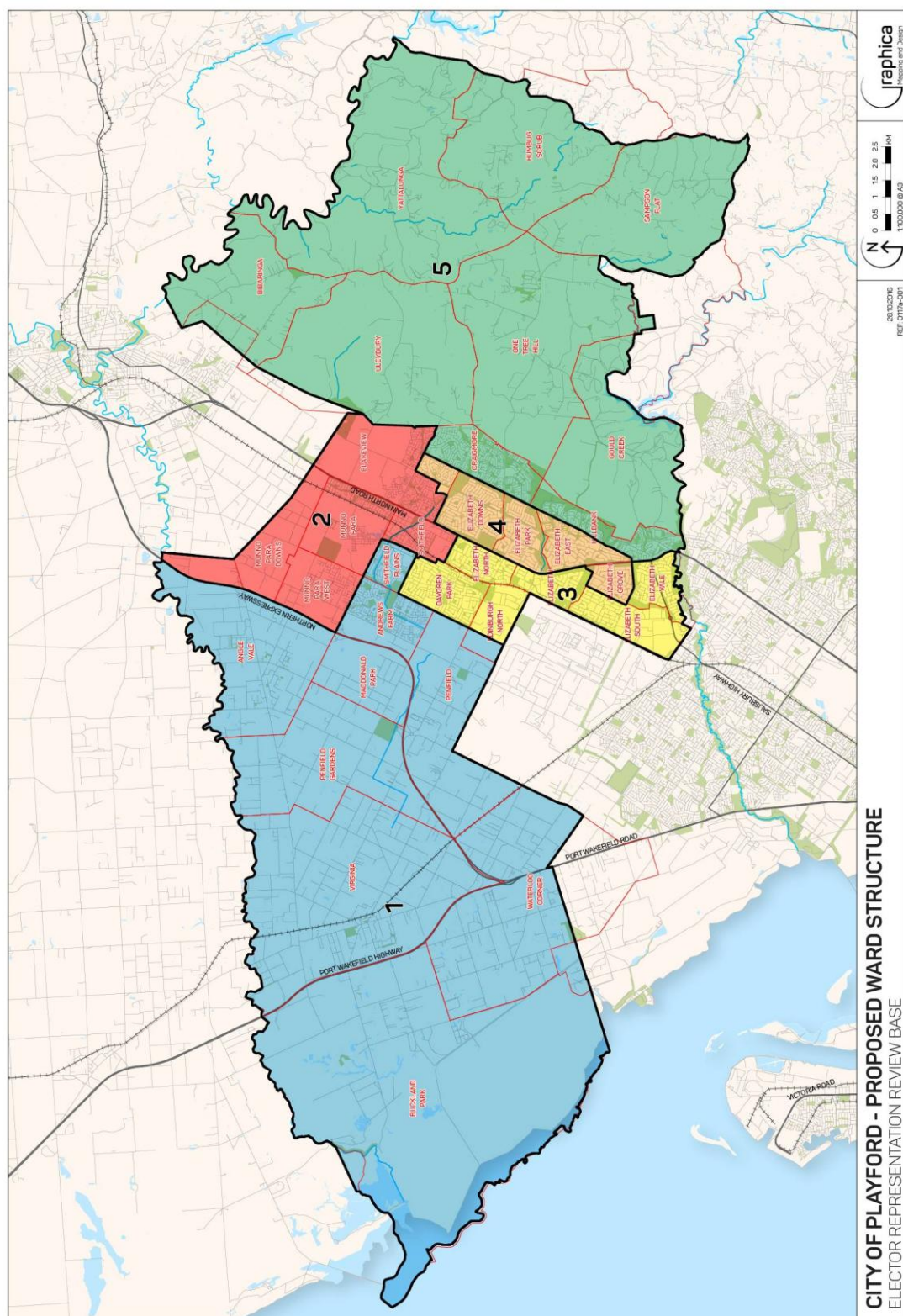
Ward 4: Comprising the suburbs of Elizabeth Downs, Elizabeth Park, Elizabeth East and Elizabeth Grove; and part of the suburb of Blakeview.

Ward 5: Comprising the suburbs of Craigmore, Hillbank, Gould Creek, One Tree Hill, Sampson Flat, Humbug Scrub, Uleybury, Yattalunga and Bibaringa.

Details pertaining to the distribution of electors between the proposed wards have been provided in Table 3 (refer page 14).

Reasons for Council's decision, together with an analysis of compliance with the relevant provisions and requirements of the Local Government Act 1999, are provided hereinafter under key issue headings.

### Map 2: Proposed Ward Structure



## 5. Proposal Rationale

### 5.1 Principal Member

Since the proclamation of the City of Playford in 1997, the principal member has always been a mayor elected by the community. Further, of the submissions received, four favoured the retention of a mayor elected by the community, and one supported the introduction of a chairperson selected by and from amongst the elected members.

Council believes that:

- a mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy – choice;
- the election of a mayor affords all eligible members of the community the opportunity to express faith in a candidate, should they choose to do so, and provides Council with an identifiable principal member who is directly accountable to the community;
- the office of mayor has served the City of Playford well over the years;
- little practical benefit will likely be achieved by changing to a chairperson at this time;
- the retention of an elected mayor as the principal member is consistent with the structure of all other metropolitan Adelaide councils;
- an elected mayor brings stability and continuity to the Council, given the four year term of office; and
- the retention of an elected mayor is consistent with the opinions expressed by the majority of respondents during the initial public consultation.

Despite the fact that there was some support expressed by a respondent for change to a chairperson, it is considered that, on balance, the introduction of a chairperson will provide only a few benefits, these being a likely reduction in the number of elected members (with associated cost savings); flexibility in the tenure of the principal member; the opportunity for a number of elected members to gain experience as the principal member during the four year term of the Council (and to bring their particular skill set and opinions to the position); and avoidance of the potential loss of high calibre candidates through the mayoral election process. On the downside, a chairperson is chosen by the elected members, thereby depriving all of the eligible electors within the City of Playford the opportunity to vote for the principal member of Council.

Finally, Council is aware that any proposal to have a chairperson rather than an elected mayor cannot progress unless or until a poll of the community has been conducted in accordance with the requirements of Section 12 (11a-d) of the Local Government Act 1999 and the result of the poll clearly supports the proposed change.

Given that the City of Playford has traditionally had an elected mayor as its principal member; nothing extraordinary has occurred that warrants a change to the way that the principal member is determined; there was little call from the community to change to a chairperson; and a mayor is democratically elected by the community as its principal representative (and is therefore accountable to the community), it is considered that there is no need for change at this time.

## 5.2 Wards/No Wards

The City of Playford has always been divided into wards, and all of the submission received by Council supported the retention of a ward structure, albeit with five or less wards.

Council believes that wards:

- guarantee direct representation of all areas and communities within the Council area;
- provide recognizable lines of communication with Council through the ward councillors; and
- ensure local interests and/or issues are not overlooked in favour of the bigger "City-wide" picture.

It is also considered that ward councillors generally have an affiliation with the community within their ward; ward councillors have an understanding of the issues and/or concerns of their constituents; and the existing ward councillors deliberate and make decisions on the basis of achieving the best outcomes for both their ward and the Council area as a whole.

Further, all of the submissions received from the community favoured the continued division of the Council area into wards. This support could be construed as acceptance by the community of the order which wards seemingly provide in the structure of Local Government, especially in respect to elector representation.

Council acknowledges that the "no wards" alternative affords electors the opportunity to vote for all of the vacant positions on Council; allows for the most supported candidates from across the Council area to be elected; and enables the elected members to be free of parochial ward attitudes. Notwithstanding this, Council is concerned that the "no wards" alternative:

- does not guarantee direct representation of all communities across the Council area;
- may make it easier for single interest candidates and/or groups to gain support (than does the existing ward based system);
- has the potential to make the task and expense of contesting council-wide elections difficult and excessive; and
- has the potential to increase the cost of conducting elections and supplementary elections, given that all contested elections must be conducted on a council-wide basis.

Having duly considered the aforementioned, Council has opted to retain a ward structure. Council believes that there are sound arguments to support the retention of a ward structure and is confident that, in the main, the community supports the division of the Council area into wards and expects the level and quality of direct representation afforded by ward councillors.

### 5.3 Proposed Ward Structure

The current structure cannot be retained because the elector ratios within existing wards numbers 1, 3, 4 and 5 lay outside the specified 10% quota tolerance limit prescribed under Section 33(2) of the Act.

This being the case, Council has had to identify an alternative ward structure, taking into account a number of factors including the character and topography of the area; the likely impacts upon existing “communities of interest”; the preferred level of ward representation and the total number of elected members; the anticipated significant future population/elector growth; the need for an equitable distribution of electors between wards; and the requirement that the elector ratios within all of the proposed wards will have to lay with the specified quota tolerance limits.

The proposed five ward structure, as depicted in Map 2 (refer page 7), is favoured because it:

- is relatively simple in configuration;
- is well balanced in regards to the distribution of electors between the proposed wards (refer Table 3, page 14) and has been developed to specifically make allowances for anticipated future growth in elector numbers (where required);
- exhibits ward elector ratios which all lay comfortably within the specified quota tolerance limits and are therefore capable of sustaining greater fluctuations in elector numbers (in comparison to the those existing wards which are presently represented by two councillors);
- has a consistent level of representation across all of the proposed wards (i.e. three ward councillors per ward);
- proposes larger wards (in area) which incorporate areas of perceived common character and, as such, serve to consolidate existing “communities of interest”; and
- has increased levels of ward representation (i.e. three councillors per ward) in comparison to the current ward structure, so as to:
  - ensure adequate and fair representation of the communities within the wards;
  - provide sufficient opportunities for aspiring candidates for Council (and the wards);
  - provide an appropriate number of ward councillors to ensure continued representation within the ward (i.e. to cover absence by a ward councillor from time to time);
  - maintain a reasonable and manageable workload for the ward councillors; and
  - provide a more cohesive arrangement whereby the deliberations of a greater number of ward representatives should serve to provide balanced viewpoints and agreed local perspectives on issues before Council.

Further, Council considers all of the proposed ward boundaries to be appropriate and acceptable, given that they primarily align with long established suburb boundaries and/or existing ward boundaries (in part).



## 5.4 Area Councillors (in addition to ward councillors)

The Local Government Act indicates that councillors can be elected as a representative of a ward, or alternatively, to represent the Council area as a whole (whether or not the Council area is divided into wards).

As indicated in the Representation Options Paper, ward councillors generally consider themselves to represent not only their ward, but the Council area as a whole. This seemingly negates the need for area councillors in addition to ward councillors, an assertion which is may be supported by the fact that only the City of Adelaide has a ward structure which incorporates two levels of representation. Further, it is noted that under such an arrangement area councillors hold no greater status than a ward councillor, have no greater responsibilities than a ward councillor, and need not comply with any extraordinary or additional eligibility requirements.

In addition, any contested election (and/or supplementary election) for area councillors must be conducted across the whole of the Council area, at a significant cost to Council.

Given the aforementioned, Council considers that area councillors (in addition to ward councillors) are an unwarranted, unnecessary and potentially costly additional form of representation.

## 5.5 Ward Identification

Council has opted to identify the proposed wards by allocating numbers (as depicted on Map 2, page 7). This means of ward identification has been utilised by Council for many years and, as such, should be known and accepted by the local community. In addition, four of the five submissions received favoured the retention of the ward numbering system.

Council examined the alternatives means of ward identification but considered the allocation of letters or direction/compass points (e.g. north, south, central etc.) to be no more appropriate than numbers, whilst the allocation of names of European and/or indigenous heritage significance would be appropriate but would require considerably more investigation and community consultation.

## 5.6 Number of Councillors

Council is aware that:

- the provisions of Sections 26 and 33 of the Local Government Act stipulate the need to ensure adequate and fair representation while at the same time avoiding over-representation in comparison to other councils of a similar size and type (at least in the longer term);
- the provisions of Section 12(6) of the Local Government Act require a Council that is constituted of more than twelve members to examine the question of whether the number of elected members should be reduced; and
- one submission supported the retention of fifteen councillors, one favoured a reduction to fourteen councillors, two supported a reduction to thirteen councillors and the remaining one proposed a reduction to twelve councillors.

The Representation Options Paper contained the following table which indicates that, by comparison with the other larger metropolitan councils, the City of Playford covers the second largest area; has the fifth highest number of councillors; only contains the seventh highest number of electors; and exhibits the seventh highest elector ratio (i.e. the average number of electors represented by a councillor).

Table 2: Elector data and representation (metropolitan councils with similar elector numbers)

Council	Councillors	Electors	Ratio
West Torrens (37.1km <sup>2</sup> )	14	39,994	1:2,856
Campbelltown (24.4km <sup>2</sup> )	10	34,700	1:3,470
Mitcham (75.6km <sup>2</sup> )	13	47,661	1:3,666
<b>Playford (346km<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>56,087</b>	<b>1:3,739</b>
Pt Adelaide Enfield (97km <sup>2</sup> )	17	79,099	1:4,653
Charles Sturt (52.1km <sup>2</sup> )	16	74,602	1:4,994
Marion (55.5km <sup>2</sup> )	12	62,486	1:5,207
Salisbury (158.1km <sup>2</sup> )	16	90,175	1:5,636
Onkaparinga (518.4km <sup>2</sup> )	20	117,896	1:5,895
Tea Tree Gully (95.2km <sup>2</sup> )	12	72,232	1:6,019

Source: Electoral Commission SA, House of Assembly Roll (February 2016)  
Council Voters Roll (3rd March 2016)

When determining the appropriate number of councillors to provide fair and adequate representation, Council was mindful that:

- sufficient elected members must be available to manage the affairs of Council;
- the elected member's workloads should not become excessive;
- there is an appropriate level of elector representation;
- a diversity in member's skill sets, experience, expertise, opinions and backgrounds is maintained to ensure robust discussion amongst the elected members; and
- adequate lines of communication must exist between a growing community and Council.

Council is aware that there are councils throughout the nation which are of a similar size (in terms of elector numbers) to the City of Playford but seemingly operate successfully with fewer elected members (and therefore higher elector ratios). Further, Council accepts that a reduction in the number of elected members would likely result in some cost savings to Council (e.g. elected member's allowances alone are \$19,000 per annum per councillor) which could be available for redirection to community projects and/or programs; and fewer elected members may serve to expedite the decision making process in Council. Further, it is acknowledged that enhanced communication and information technology also serves to reduce any difficulties previously experienced by elected members in respect to their day to day tasks and communication with both Council and the community.

On the other hand, Council is mindful that the City of Playford covers the second largest area of the metropolitan councils (i.e. approximately 346 km<sup>2</sup>); and significant on-going population growth across the City in the foreseeable future is anticipated, primarily as a consequence of on-going new residential development and the "Playford Alive" residential renewal initiative (refer 6.5 Demographic Trends, page 15).

Clearly, the anticipated increase in the future population of the City of Playford will ultimately serve to increase elector numbers and impact upon the elector ratios within the proposed wards. However, the extent and timing of any of this future development (and resultant increase in elector numbers) is difficult to quantify at this time.

Council believes that it is important to maintain the quality and level of representation that has long been experienced and expected by the local community. As such, a reduction in the number of councillors at this time would be untenable, given that it will likely result in excessive workloads for the remaining councillors which, in turn, may impact upon the quality of the representation provided.

Given the aforementioned, Council has formed the opinion that a reduction in the number of councillors is not warranted or prudent at this time.



## 6. Legislative Requirements

The provisions of Sections 26(1)(c) and 33(1) of the Local Government Act 1999 require Council take into account, as far as practicable, the following when developing a proposal that relates to its composition and structure.

### 6.1 Quota

Section 33(2) of the Local Government Act 1999 states:

*"A proposal that relates to the formation or alteration of wards of a council must also observe the principle that the number of electors represented by a councillor must not, as at the relevant date (assuming that the proposal were in operation), vary from the ward quota by more than 10 per cent..."*

According to the provisions of Section 33(2a)(b), ward quota is determined to be:

*"the number of electors for the area (as at the relevant date) divided by the number of councillors for the area who represent wards (assuming that the proposal were in operation and ignoring any fractions resulting from the division)."*

Table 3 indicates that the elector ratios in each of the proposed wards lay comfortably within the specified quota tolerance limits.

Table 3: Proposed ward structure - Elector data per ward and variance to quota

Ward	Councillors	Electors	Ratio	% Variance
Ward 1	3	10,886	1:3,629	- 2.9
Ward 2	3	11,229	1:3,743	+ 0.1
Ward 3	3	11,088	1:3,696	- 1.1
Ward 4	3	11,620	1:3,873	+ 3.6
Ward 5	3	11,264	1:3,755	+ 0.4
<b>Total</b>	15	56,087		
<b>Average</b>			1:3,739	

Source: Electoral Commission SA , House of Assembly Roll (February 2016)  
Council Voters Roll (3rd March 2016)

### 6.2 Communities of Interest and Population

The Act speaks of the desirability of reflecting communities of interest of an economic, social, regional or other kind.

"Communities of interest" have previously been defined as "aspects of the physical, economic and social systems which are central to the interactions of communities in their living environment", and are generally identified by considering factors relevant thereto, including neighbourhood communities; history and heritage communities; sporting facilities; community support services; recreation and leisure communities; retail and shopping centres; work communities; industrial and economic development clusters; and environmental and geographic interests.

Council considers that there are numerous communities of interest within the Council area, including but not limited to the fifty-two long-established suburbs (or part suburbs). When developing the proposed ward structure, care was taken to ensure that, where possible, identified land use precincts were maintained in their entirety within the bounds of a ward, taking into account the features of the landscape and/or urban development. In order to achieve this, Council aimed to maintain entire suburbs within wards (where possible).

### 6.3 Topography

The City of Playford is approximately 346km<sup>2</sup> in area and comprises long established residential suburbs located on both sides of Main North Road; rapidly developing outer residential suburbs; industrial and commercial precincts; and expanses of open rural land to both the east and west, some of which have been earmarked for future additional residential development. An extensive road network covers the City, and a pipeline and railway line run through the City (basically from north to south).

The natural environment of the City stretches from the northern Adelaide coastline across the plains to the northern foothills of the Mount Lofty Ranges, and includes four significant watercourses (i.e. Little Para River, Adams Creek, Smith Creek and the Gawler River).

It is considered that the proposed ward structure is a relatively simple and efficient division of the Council area which befits and accommodates the existing topographical features of the City. The maintaining of entire suburbs within proposed wards (where possible) also serves to diminish the potential impacts of topographic features upon the proposed ward structure.

### 6.4 Feasibility of Communication

Council believes that the mayor and fifteen ward councillors will continue to provide adequate proven lines of communication between Council and the community, given the size of the City; the relatively compact nature of the urban development within the Council area; and the advanced information technology which is now available for everyday use by the elected members and the community.

### 6.5 Demographic Trends

Council is aware that there is the potential for a significant increase in elector numbers throughout the Council area in the foreseeable future, primarily as a consequence of new and/or on-going residential development. However, the extent and timing of such is difficult to determine with any certainty.

During the process of identifying its preferred future composition and structure, Council took into account the following information.

#### 6.5.1 Residential Development

The residential development/re-development opportunities detailed hereinafter have the potential to significantly increase population (and therefore elector numbers) in the foreseeable future and, as such, were taken into account when developing the proposed ward structure.

Council has identified Buckland Park (additional 32,000 people); Virginia (additional 5,000 - 11,000 people); Angle Vale (additional 5,000 - 15,000 people); the "Playford Extension" area comprising parts of Munno Para Downs, Munno Para West and Andrews Farm (additional 10,000 - 15,000 people); and Blakeview (additional 16,000 - 19,000 people) as the areas likely to sustain much of the of future population growth (refer "*Snapshot - Urban Growth Area*" documents, January 2011).

In addition, the "Playford Alive" residential renewal project aims to regenerate the Peachey Belt (Smithfield Plans and Davoren Park) and develop new areas of housing north of Curtis Road and west of Stebonheath Road. This project could realize an additional 4,000 dwellings and increase the population of the area from 13,000 to 30,000.

Further, the "*Playford Growth Area Structure Plan*", as prepared by the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure in December 2013, generally focuses on the Angle Vale, Playford North Extension, Virginia and Greater Edinburgh Parks urban growth area. The Structure Plan supports the vision espoused within Council's "*Playford Community Vision 2043*" and provides an integrated strategic land use and infrastructure framework to realize approximately 38,000 additional dwellings; 103,000 additional people; and 43,000 additional jobs. This future population growth is anticipated to occur (in part) in and about the township of Angle Vale (additional 13,000+ people); within the "Playford North Extension" area which includes Andrews Farm, Penfield, Munno Para Downs and Munno Para West (additional 16,500+ people); and in and about the township of Virginia (additional 11,000+ people).

### 6.5.2 Population Projections

Population projections provided by the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI), as at February 2016, indicate that the population of the City of Playford is expected to:

- increase by 22,737 (i.e. 80,684 to 103,421) or 28.18% during the ten year period 2011 - 2021 (which will likely be several years before the next scheduled elector representation review); and
- increase by a further 24,251 (i.e. 103,421 to 127,672) or 23.45% during the period 2021 – 2031.

In addition, according to Council's "*State of the City*" Report 2011, population and modelling undertaken at that time by both Council and the state government indicated that the population of the City of Playford could grow to approximately 140,000 by 2026, and 200,000 by 2050. This projection is consistent with Council's "*Playford - Today & Tomorrow*" which indicates that the population of the Council area is increasing at approximately 2% per year and will likely reach 193,000 by 2043.

### 6.5.3 Elector Numbers

At the previous review in 2008/2009 it was reported that the total number of electors within the City of Playford increased significantly (i.e. 5,821 electors or 12.2%) during the five year period February 2003 - February 2008.

More recent data sourced from Electoral Commission SA indicates that the total number of electors within the Council area increased by a further 7,996 (16.66%) during the five year period February 2011 to February 2016.

#### 6.5.4 Census Data

According to data provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (2001, 2006 and 2011 Census Community Profiles – Playford (C) Local Government Area), the estimated total population of the Council area increased by 3,253 (4.87%) over the period 2001 – 2006, and then increased by another 9,104 (or 13.0%) during the period 2006 – 2011.

Overall, the population in the Council area increased by 12,357 or 18.51% over the period 2001 – 2011 period, and the total number of dwellings (all forms) within the Council area increased by 6,225 or 23.8%.

#### 6.5.5 The 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide

The 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide (released February 2010) incorporates Buckland Park, Virginia, Angle Vale, Munno Para Downs and the "Playford Extension" area (comprising parts of Munno Para West and Andrews Farm) within the designated "future urban growth areas" (refer Map E4, Northern Adelaide directions).

The 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide (Chapter D, Policies and Targets) contains targets for future urban expansion across Greater Adelaide. The relevant targets are as follows.

- Target P: Plan for strategic new growth areas comprising a net land supply of 10,500 hectares (gross total of 14,200 hectares, including buffers). These areas include Angle Vale, Buckland Park/Buckland Park South, Playford North extension/ Munno Para Downs, and Virginia/Virginia North.
- Target R: Provide for 124,000 dwellings and 44,200 jobs in these areas as well as the existing urban land supply and other fringe growth opportunities.

### 6.6 Adequate and Fair Representation

For the reasons espoused earlier, Council is confident that its proposed future composition will continue to provide the optimum number of elected members required to manage the affairs of Council; provide an appropriate level of elector representation; maintain an appropriate diversity in the skill set, experience and expertise of the elected members; and present adequate lines of communication between the community and Council.

### 6.7 Section 26, Local Government Act 1999

Section 26(1) of the Act requires that a number of broader Principles also be taken into account during the review process. These are similar in nature to those presented under Section 33, and include:

- the desirability of avoiding significant divisions within the community;
- proposed changes should, wherever practicable, benefit ratepayers;
- a Council having a sufficient resource base to fulfil its functions fairly, effectively and efficiently;

- a Council should reflect communities of interest of an economic, recreational, social, regional or other kind, and be consistent with community structures, values, expectations and aspirations; and
- residents should receive adequate and fair representation within the local government system, while over-representation in comparison with Councils of a similar size and type should be avoided (at least in the longer term).

The structure being proposed by Council is considered to comply with the cited legislative provisions, in that it will:

- incorporate sufficient elected members to undertake the various roles and responsibilities of Council;
- avoids divisions within the community through the provision of a large number of wards;
- have little if any detrimental impact upon the ratepayers and/or existing communities of interest;
- continue to provide adequate and fair representation to all electors; and
- compare favourably with the composition, structure and elector ratios of the larger of the other metropolitan councils.

## 7. Current Public Consultation

In accordance with Section 12(9) of the Local Government Act 1999, interested persons are invited to make a written submission to Council in respect to this report, and more specifically the composition and structure that Council proposes to introduce on the day of the Local Government elections in 2018. Any person who makes a written submission at this time will be afforded the opportunity to address Council or a committee thereof, either in person or by a representative, in support of their submission.

Interested members of the community are invited to make a written submission expressing their views on the proposed future composition and structure of Council. Submissions will be accepted until 5.00pm on the (Insert date) 2016 and should be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, 12 Bishopstone Road, Davoren Park 5113 or emailed to [Publicconsultation@playford.sa.gov.au](mailto:Publicconsultation@playford.sa.gov.au).

Further information regarding the elector representation review can be obtained by contact xxxxxx, on xxxxxx or email [playford@playford.sa.gov.au](mailto:playford@playford.sa.gov.au).