



WARD AND REPRESENTATION REVIEW 2022/23

Summary of Submissions

Response No.	Ideal No. of Councillors	Ward Representation	Communities of Interest & Comment
1	7	Yes <i>Comment:</i> Councillors are better accountable when representing a ward	No
2	7 <i>Comment:</i> All present positions should be cancelled and a new election for Councillors be conducted in October 2023. Half the Councillors receive 4 year term balance a two year term ie 4:3	No <i>Comment:</i> would serve no useful purpose	Yes <i>Comment:</i> Merredin is an ageing community and should be recognised. Feel there is no reason to divide on any grounds or offer alternative representation All residents on the roll have a right to nominate for Council Democratic principles of equal vote and representation should ensure
3	7 <i>Comment:</i> Needed to represent the District Suggest an election for all positions	No Not needed	No <i>Comment:</i> All equal in a democracy
4	7	No <i>Comment:</i> Better not to have wards, current arrangement suitable	No
5	7	Yes <i>Comment:</i> We used to have wards, I felt the outlying communities were better served when there were wards	Yes <i>Comment:</i> The satellite towns of Burracoppin, Hines Hill, Muntadgin
6	7 <i>Comment:</i> May save a small amount of remuneration, but potentially there could be a proposal to increase allowances paid to seven related to possibly greater individual workload. Five is probably too small - allows one or two to have undue influence with less moderation by others	No	No <i>Comment:</i> All voters have the opportunity to stand for election, regardless of community interest. Nominees should have a wider platform for election and function as a Councillor than primarily their community of interest - they should represent the entire Merredin community. For some a Councillor role will be difficult to juggle with work and family life. However, they must understand this potential difficulty before standing and, if elected, commit to an approximately equivalent input into Council duties,

			as other Councillors, and not use their particular circumstances to contribute less to their Council duties.
7	5 <i>Comment:</i> Councillors now under the LG Act have no real powers and only really are a voice for the Community	No	No
8	7 <i>Comment:</i> Councillors now under the LG Act have no real powers and only really are a voice for the Community	Yes <i>Comment:</i> I would prefer to have Wards but there are just not the number of people in the Wards anymore to allow for volunteer representation that takes up an enormous amount of time. Our Wards are majority farming communities and being away from your farm is a huge undertaking.	Yes <i>Comment:</i> Not clear on exactly what this means but I feel our Shire does not do a great deal for our Senior Citizens. All community planning needs to address all community sectors.
9	7 <i>Comment:</i> The more diverse the better	Yes <i>Comment:</i> Wards would be good. Some wards would get things done and others wouldn't, due to the diligence of the councillors	No <i>Comment:</i> A definition of human communities may have intent, belief, resources, preferences, needs, and risks in common, affecting the identity of the participants and their degree of cohesiveness. Putting this statement together with Merredin and nominating for me is difficult, however I think that this question should be put to the year 11 and 12s they are the future
10	7	No <i>Comment:</i> No point as local act closed them	No <i>Comment:</i> Do not create divisions of people groups. Elections are open to everyone
11	5	No	Yes
12	7 <i>Comment:</i> To keep rural area involved, plus allowing councillor's to sit with sport groups, specialty groups like museums, town progress groups, target accommodation for short stay.	Yes <i>Comment:</i> Allows residents to approach who they feel comfortable with.	No
13	7	No	No
14	7 (See Appendix 1)	Yes (See Appendix 1)	No (See Appendix 1)

Summary of Results

Response	Ideal Number of Councillors	Ward Representation	Communities of Interest & Comment
1	7	Yes	No
2	7	No	Yes
3	7	No	No
4	7	No	No
5	7	Yes	Yes
6	7	No	No
7	5	No	No
8	7	Yes	Yes
9	7	Yes	Yes
10	7	No	No
11	5	No	Yes
12	7	Yes	No
13	7	No	No
14	7	Yes	No
Outcome	7 (86%) 5 (14%)	Yes (43%) No (57%)	No (65%) Yes (36%)

Appendix 1

Public Submissions and Supporting Documentation

Response to the Merredin Shire Council's "Review of Representation" as in the Merredin Community News, dated 7th February 2023.

What do we think is an ideal number of councillors for the Merredin Shire ?

We believe that Seven councillors would be an appropriate number considering the population of the shire.

This would include the Shire President, four town [4] councillors and two [2] councillors representing the farming and small outlying town sites and community areas.

The shire of Merredin does not have Wards. Herewith our comments.

We are very much in favour of the Wards system of representation.

In our life time we have experienced both styles of council representation.

When we had Wards, the councillors who were elected, represented either the farming or business or general public in their particular Ward as well as being involved in the overall council management and care for the Shire population.

This gave a much more diverse section of elected members to carry on the business of Local Government and hopefully make them more accountable to their Ward electors or risk not being re-elected.

They would/might also answer their emails and letters from constituents.

[Councillors who do not reply to emails or letters from constituents show a disdain for the people who voted for them in the first place.]

The Ward system would also overcome the possibility of Councillors becoming elected on the platform they advertise in their election promises, but once in the chamber, they may pursue their own agendas.

A councillor elected to represent a particular Ward, having first-hand knowledge of his/her area, would be able to present first-hand information about that Ward re the condition of Shire owned buildings, feeder roads and more remote rural roads or any other problem relating to their Ward.

We believe the Shire needs to have Wards that specifically represent the farming community who, whilst their numbers are smaller these days, their total economic contribution to this town and our businesses is enormous.

You only have to drive round the east end of town past all the machinery and farm related businesses to know how much money is spent by farmers in this region in the course of their business.

Not to mention the western business section, with CBH growing exponentially by the year, trucking companies and engineering companies situated that side of town also demonstrating their success.

The old saying was "If the farmers have a bad year, then everyone suffers".

This has been proved correct many times over.

We need to keep the town attractive to locals and visitors, and accessible to our own elderly or disabled and young families, but also the through traffic.

If you can't park your caravan in a convenient place to the shopping centre, or a caravanner gets a fine for incorrect parking, then the word travels like wildfire.....and caravanners will bypass Merredin for some town more co-operative.

We believe that Wards should be re-introduced.

We also believe that there should be compulsory voting for all ratepayers despite the difficulties that this may cause.

Do you think that the Shire of Merredin has communities of interest that should be represented differently ?

Review of Representation discussion paper, page 6....Options to Consider, point 3.

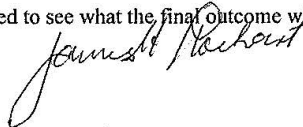
We are pleased to read the Council found "No legally appropriate instrument was found to enable this to occur", when mentioning "Communities of Interest".

Our family has never been racist nor shown any prejudice against anyone.

We have always believed that everyone is equal whatever their race, colour or creed.

Thank you for the opportunity to make comments on the Review of Presentation Discussion Paper, and also for the covering Draft background and points to consider information.

We will be interested to see what the final outcome will be.



Jim and Bev Flockart

PO Box 22

Merredin 6415

WA

7th February 2023.

Appendix 2

Shire of Merredin Public Notice

REVIEW OF REPRESENTATION – DISCUSSION PAPER NOW OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Published on Thursday, 22 December 2022 at 11:58:56 AM

The Shire of Merredin is conducting a review of its system of representation, in line with the Local Government Reform Proposals which are expected to be introduced into parliament in early 2023.

As part of this review, the Shire is seeking feedback on the Review of Representation Discussion Paper which has been developed to outline possible scenarios of change that may be introduced as part of these reforms.

The significant changes outlined in the paper revolve around the requirement to reduce the number of Councillors from nine, to between five and seven (including the Shire President).

To view the discussion paper, [click here](#).

We encourage discussion within the community and welcome any feedback regarding this Discussion Paper.

Written submissions can be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer and emailed to ea@merredin.wa.gov.au or posted to PO Box 42, Merredin WA 6415.

Alternately, community members may wish to submit feedback through this survey. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TF27H6L>

All submissions must be received by **4.00pm on Wednesday, 8 February 2023**.

Lisa Clack,

Chief Executive Officer

[Back to All Items](#)

Appendix 3

Summary of Advertisements



Shire of Merredin

Published by Kohdee Swinwood · December 23, 2022 ·

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To view the discussion paper, click here bit.ly/3PPHRn1

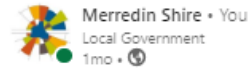
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Lisa Clack,
Chief Executive Officer



Merredin Shire • You

Local Government

1mo ·

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Chief Executive Officer



Shire of Merredin

@ShireofMerredin

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bit.ly/3PPHRn1



Review of Representation—Discussion Paper Open For Comment

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To view the discussion paper, visit bit.ly/3JOkE94

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Merredin Heritage Project Secures Funding

The Shire of Merredin is one of 38 successful recipients to share in more than \$1million in funding, through the State Governments 2022/23 Heritage Grant Program.

This program provides matched funding to heritage site owners for vital conservation works of heritage places, and funding assistance to local heritage managers to deliver interpretation projects that share the stories of our past.

Merredin will receive \$20,000 for the development and implementation of an interpretation plan for Pioneer Park and the Merredin Water Tower, inclusive of on-site, print and online interpretive materials. Please note, the Shire are working with the State Government to finalise funding for the refurbishment of the Water Tower. These works will not be completed with this grant.

Congratulations also to the Merredin Railway Station Group who also received \$7,712.00 in funding to develop an interpretation plan for the Merredin Railway Museum's Main Display area.

Summer Reading Challenge

During December and January, Western Australian Public Libraries are running an exciting Summer Reading Quest, including our very own Merredin Regional Library!

The Quest is open to children of all ages and runs until **31 January 2023**, so it's not too late to sign up.

You can participate in the following ways;

1. Reading Log (ages five and over)

A calendar-style reading log to record the number of days and time read.

2. Adventure Activity Card

Pick up a Summer Reading Quest booklet from your local library, which includes the **Reading Log** and the **Adventure Activity Card**. During January record the number of days and time read and/or tick off the Adventure Activities as you complete them. You can collect small prizes from the library as you complete various stages.

3. Summer Steps (ages five and under)

This is a thirty day Quest with fun literacy activities for little ones to do with family and friends. Pick up a Summer Steps card from the library and tick off each step as you complete it. Check in with your local Library once you have completed 10 steps for a small prize.



Appendix 4

Shire of Merredin Survey Submission Form

Review of Representation

* 1. What do you think is the ideal number of Councillors for the Shire of Merredin?

Seven

Five

Comments

2. The Shire of Merredin does not currently have wards. Do you have any comment on this?

Yes

No

Comments

* 3. Do you think the Shire of Merredin has communities of interest that should be represented differently?

Yes

No

Name of Community Interest and Comment

Done

Appendix 5

Shire of Merredin Public Submission Form

Review of Representation



Feedback Form

1. What do you think is the ideal number of Councillors for the Shire of Merredin?

Seven

Five

Comments:

2. The Shire of Merredin does not currently have wards. Do you have any comment on this?

Comments:

3. Do you think the Shire of Merredin has communities of interest that should be represented differently?

Yes

No

Name of Community of Interest: _____

Comments:
