

20 November 2012

Community Consultation
Representation Review
Adelaide City Council
GPO Box 2252
Adelaide SA 5001

City of Adelaide Draft Representation Review Report

As can be seen from the attached South East City Residents Association (SECRA) submission on the Representation Review Options Paper SECRA supports the Lord Mayor being elected by the electors.

Also the SECRA submission proposed the retention of three wards but with two Ward Councillors in each of the North and South Wards (Wards 1 and 3) and three Ward Councillors in the Central Ward (Ward 2). The Three Ward Model recommended in the Draft Representation Review Report (Appendix 3) is identical with the three ward map proposed in the attached SECRA submission and is therefore supported by SECRA.

The only difference between the proposals in the Draft Representation Review Report and those in the attached SECRA submission is the total number of councillors.

The attached SECRA submission proposed that the total number of councillors (including the Lord Mayor) remain at the current 12 (ie a reduction of 1 Area Councillor due to the increase of Ward Councillors by 1) whereas the Draft Representation Review Report proposes a total of 13 councillors (ie no reduction in the number of existing number of Area Councillors).

Reasons given in the Draft Representation Review Report for maintaining the current number of 5 Area Councillors are:

“.....the maintenance of 5 area councillor positions ensures a level of balance between the roles of ward councillors and area councillors and ensures city-wide issues are appropriately represented on the Council. Having an even number of councillors will also mean that the Lord Mayor will possibly be required to exercise a vote at Council more regularly, as there is a higher probability of the Chamber being equally divided on a matter.”

SECRA is of the view that the above reasons are not adequate to justify increasing the total number of councillors from 12 to 13 because of the following:

- Ward Councillors, while mindful of local ward issues and being in a position to inform other councillors of these issues if relevant, should be taking into account what is best for the city as a whole when casting their vote. This could be likened to State or Commonwealth Government Cabinets where the lower house members who represent electorates (the Ward Councillor equivalent), far outnumber the Upper House members (the Area Councillor equivalent).
- The argument that the Lord Mayor will possibly be required to exercise a vote at Council more regularly if there is an even number of councillors does not take into account that on occasions some councillors will be absent. In any event the Lord Mayor is elected by all electors so why shouldn't he or she have a vote if needed to resolve an issue.

As can be seen from the table below there is already a high number of councillors in the Adelaide City Council compared to most other Australian Capital Cities.

Capital City	Electoral structure	Number of Councillors	Estimated Electors	Ratio councillors to electors
Adelaide	3 wards	11	23,249 ⁷	1:2,113
Sydney	No wards	9	89,568 ⁸	1:9,952
Melbourne	No wards	10	97,855 ⁹	1:9,785
Perth	No wards	8	10,213	1:1,277
Darwin	4 wards	12	43,398	1:3,617
Hobart	No wards	11	36,615	1:3,328

In the current financial climate ratepayers may not be sympathetic to an increase in the total number of councillors however SECRA is not well enough informed to make a recommendation on how many Area Councillors are required. In view of the smaller numbers of total councillors in most other Australian Capital Cities SECRA is of the view that more justification than that given in the Draft Representation Review Report is needed if the total number of councillors is to be increased by 1.

Yours sincerely,



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14 August 2012

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City of Adelaide Elector Representation Review – Options Paper.

The following comments on the “City of Adelaide Elector Representation Review – Options Paper” are provided by the South East City Residents Association (SECRA).

SECRA believes that because of the importance of the position of Lord Mayor of the City of Adelaide, the Capital of South Australia, electors should be in a position to know who are the candidates for the position and have the opportunity to vote for the candidate they consider is the best person to lead the council.

SECRA therefore supports the current arrangement where the Lord Mayor of the City of Adelaide is elected by the electors of the council area as a whole.

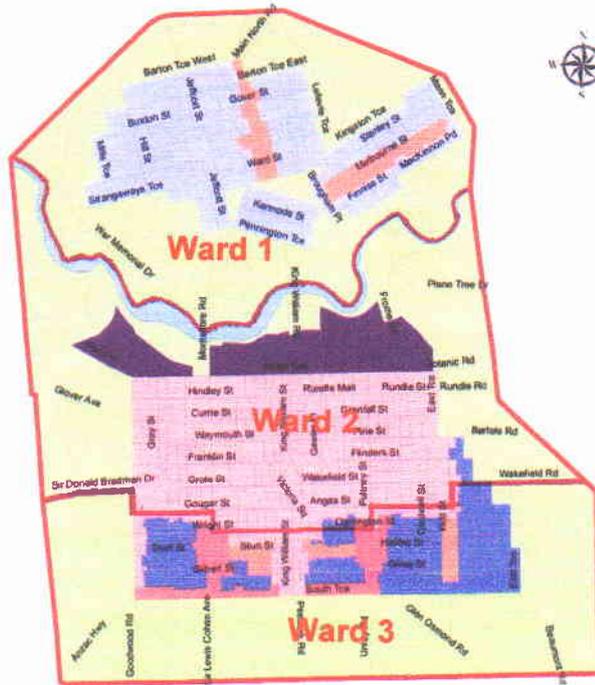
For many years the southern area of the city has been represented by at least one councillor who is familiar with that part of the city. SECRA is concerned that if there were no Ward Councillors then a situation could arise where no elected councillors are familiar with the southern area of the city. It is acknowledged that councillors, regardless as to whether they are elected as a Ward or Area Councillor, are expected to make decisions on behalf of the whole community of the city. However the southern area could be disadvantaged if none of these councillors were familiar with southern area of the city and were not able to impart such knowledge to other councillors. The retention of Ward Councillors ensures that this situation does not arise.

SECRA is of the view that an Adelaide City Council consisting of both Ward and Area Councillors should be maintained and is happy with the current arrangement of the three wards with two Ward Councillors per ward and five Area Councillors.

If however the current imbalance of electors between the three wards is required to be addressed this could be done as follows:

The Options Paper lists the total number of electors within the city as 23,249 and the number of electors within Ward 1 as shown in the map below as 6621.

This would mean that there are a total of 16,628 electors in Wards 2 and 3. By locating the boundary between Wards 2 and 3 approximately as shown on the map below then 60% of these electors would be in Ward 2 and 40% in Ward 3. Under this arrangement if there were two Ward Councillors in each of Wards 1 and 3 and three Ward Councillors in Ward 2 then there would be approximately one Ward councillor per 3300 electors which would correct the current imbalance.



Under this option the City of Adelaide Council would consist of three Wards as shown on the above map with a total of twelve elected positions as follows:

- Lord Mayor - Elected by the electors of the council area as a whole
- 4 Area Councillors - Elected by the electors of the council area as a whole
- 2 Ward 1 Councillors – Elected by the electors within Ward 1
- 3 Ward 2 Councillors – Elected by the electors within Ward 2
- 2 Ward 3 Councillors – Elected by the electors within Ward 3

In view of the fact that Wards 1 and 3 have a much higher number of owner/occupier residents than Ward 2 there may be a greater need for these residents to contact their Ward Councillors on local issues. Under these circumstances a further refinement to the above option could be to split each of Wards 1 and 3 in half, with one Ward Councillor in each half, to form four smaller wards (ie North East Ward, North West Ward, South East Ward and South West Ward).

Yours sincerely,

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