



City of Marion
Representation Report

Prepared by:
Kate McKenzie,
Manager Corporate Governance,
in accordance with Section 12 (8a) of the *Local
Government Act 1999*

Date: 27 October 2020

Public Consultation Period:
28 October – 24 November 2020

Contents

DRAFT

Executive Summary

The City of Marion last completed an “elector representation review” in 2013 with the outcome being implemented at the 2014 Local Government Elections. The Local Government Act 1999 requires that the Representation Review is completed every eight years and hence the Council is now well progressed with this review, which is required before June 2021.

This Representation Report has been prepared in accordance with Section 12 of the Local Government Act 1999 (the Act). The Act requires Council to comprehensively review all aspects of its composition and the division (or potential division) of the council area into wards. Council must consider adequate and fair representation while at the same time avoiding overrepresentation. It must also consider key communities of interest, population of the wards, topography of the wards, feasibility of communication between electors and the Ward Councillors and substantial demographic changes that may occur in the foreseeable future.

Council produced a Representation Review Options Paper which proceeded to a six (6) week community consultation. Council considered the responses received at its meeting of 13 October 2020. Council determined that the consultation results were minimal, being less than 1% of the resident population. Council has taken the consultation feedback into consideration but also notes that the responses do not reflect a true representative sample of the residents of the City of Marion.

Council has determined to progress with Option 6 from the Representation Review Options Paper, which is a Mayor and six (6) equal wards with two (2) councillors per ward, totalling 13 Council Members. This is also the Council’s current representation structure.

This Representation Report now outlines the proposed structure and the reasoning why Council has selected this option.

Have your say

Members of the community are invited to provide comment on the Representation Report. You can express your views in a number of ways:

- Review the Representation Report on our website at Making Marion (add link)
- Complete the online survey and/or make a written submission via Making Marion
- Those who have submitted written submission or completed the survey will be invited to make verbal submission to the Council at the 24 November 2020 Council Meeting (commencing at 6.30 pm)

The community engagement period opens on Wednesday, 28 October 2020 and close after verbal submissions have been heard at the Council Meeting on Tuesday, 24 November 2020.

Further information regarding the Representation Review can also be obtained by contacting: Jaimie Thwaites, Acting Manager Corporate Governance via phone 8375 6600 or by email Jaimie.thwaites@marion.sa.gov.au

Next steps

Following consultation on the Representation Report, Council will consider the community feedback and conclude the review at its meeting on 8 December 2020. Council is then required to submit its recommendations to the Electoral Commissioner for certification and government gazettal. The outcomes will be implemented at the November 2022 Local Government Elections.

Introduction

The City of Marion received notice by SA Government Gazette on 1 August 2019, that it is required to complete its Representation Review in the period between June 2020 to June 2021.

The Representation Review must be completed in accordance with the requirements of Section 12 of the Act to ensure fair and equitable representation of all City of Marion electors.

The review process provides the community with the opportunity to consider and input to the optimum elected body composition and representation structure for effective governance to serve community requirements now, and into the future.

Process

Council is required to undertake the following steps to complete the Representation Review and meet its legislative requirements:

1. Appoint a suitability qualified person to undertake the review.	23 June 2020 General Council Meeting	Completed
2. Prepare a Representation Review Options Paper for consideration and adoption.	29 July 2020 General Council meeting	Completed
3. Release the Representation Review Options Paper for Public Consultation for a minimum of six (6) weeks.	30 July to 14 September 2020	Completed
4. Analyse and review the outcomes of the consultation.	13 October 2020 General Council Meeting	Completed
5. Prepare and adopt a Representation Review Report for a further three (3) weeks' public consultation.	27 October 2020 General Council Meeting	In progress
6. Provide the opportunity for people to present their views to Council via a formal meeting of Council.	24 November 2020 General Council Meeting	Scheduled
7. Analyse and review the outcomes of the public consultation.	After 24 th November	Not commenced
8. Adopt a representation structure based on the results of the consultation.	8 December 2020 General Council Meeting	Scheduled
9. Prepare Representation Report for submission to the Electoral Commissioner of SA for Certification and Gazettal.	Submit by 18 December 2020	Not commenced

City of Marion

Overview

A detailed overview of the City of Marion is provided in the Representation Review Options Report. Key items to note include:

- City of Marion is a large metro Council with an estimated population of 93,448, which is expected to pass 100,000 by 2028.
- It has a broad mix of cultures with approximately 27 per cent of residents born overseas, about 19 per cent of whom speak a language other than English.
- It produced an annual economic output of more than \$6.2 billion with strong retail, clean tech industries, advanced manufacturing and trade industries.
- It has a mixed topography with coastline, hills and flat terrain.

Map 1 – Current City of Marion Wards



Current Representation Structure

The current structure of the Council has been in place since 2010 (with minor ward boundary changes in 2014).

The Council has an elected Mayor (elected by the community) and 12 Councillors. The City is separated into six wards, each represented by two (2) Ward Councillors. The total number of Council Members is 13.

Current quotas

The City of Marion currently has one (1) Council Member to represent 5,460 voters, known as a 'representation quota'.

A ward quota or representation quota is determine 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 proposals were in operation and ignoring any fractions resulting from the division)"*.

Section 33(2) of the Act requires that the average number of electors represented by a Councillor within wards must sit within a specified 10 per cent tolerance.

Table 1 outlines the current quotas and percentages for the Council.

The current ward structure reflects local communities of interest with whole suburbs being included within one ward and where possible, main roads being ward boundaries. Community facilities are well proportioned across each ward to provide fairness and equity to the Council area. The current ward quotas also sit well within 10% tolerance and have adequate room for growth in each ward.

Table 1 – City of Marion Representation Quota as at April 2020

010 City of Marion							
Mayor/Chairperson: M		Area Councillors		0			
Ward Code	Ward	HA Electors	Council Voters Roll	Total	No. of Reps.	Quota	% Difference
1	Mullawirra	11226	13	11239	2	5619	2.91%
2	Woodlands	11102	23	11125	2	5562	1.87%
3	Warracowie	11600	15	11615	2	5807	6.36%
4	Warriparinga	10538	16	10554	2	5277	-3.35%
5	Coastal	10456	7	10463	2	5231	-4.19%
6	Southern Hills	10511	13	10524	2	5262	-3.63%
Total:		65433	87	65520	12	Average : 5460	
Last Review : 27/11/2013				Next Review : 1/04/2020			

Consultation Outcomes

Summary

At its meeting of 29 July 2020, Council adopted the Representation Review Options Paper for the purposes of public consultation. The Options Paper was available between 30 July and 14 September 2020. During the consultation period, the following activities occurred:

- Making Marion page with online survey
- Public notice in the Advertiser
- Gazette notice
- Various facebook posts
- Two engagement sessions held in the administration building (one during business hours and one at night)
- Article in City Limits
- CoastFM promotion by the Mayor
- Presentation to the Community Leadership program participants

There were no registrations received for the two engagement sessions and a total of 16 people completed the online survey.

The Options Paper provided arguments for and against the following:

- The principal member of Council being a Mayor (elected by the community) vs Chairperson (appointed by Council Members)
- The number of Council Members being either 8, 9, 10, 11 or 12 (current)
- No wards vs wards (and how many) – 3, 4, 5 or 6 (current)
- The introduction of Area Councillors
- Ward representation of a single councillor, two councillors, multiple councillors or varying the number of councillors
- Wards options
 - Option 1 - Three wards with 3 Councillors per ward (total 9 plus Mayor)
 - Option 1a - Three wards with 4 Councillors per ward (total 12 plus Mayor)

- Option 2 – Three wards with 3 Councillors per ward (total 9 plus Mayor)
- Option 2a - Three wards with 4 Councillors per ward (total 12 plus Mayor)
- Option 3 - Four wards with 2 Councillors per ward (total 8 plus Mayor)
- Option 3a - Four wards with 3 Councillors per ward (total 12 plus Mayor)
- Option 4 - Five wards with 2 Councillors per ward (total 10 plus Mayor)
- Option 5 - Five wards with 2 Councillors in 4 wards and 3 councillors in 1 (total 11 plus Mayor)
- Option 6 - Six wards with 2 Councillors per ward (total 12 plus Mayor) – current options

Survey Results

The survey results indicated:

1. The principal member of Council
 - 11 responses for Mayor
 - 3 responses for Chairperson
2. Area Councillors
 - 12 responses said yes
 - 3 responses said no
3. Optimum number of Council members
 - 2 responses said 8
 - 4 responses said 11
 - 9 responses said 12
4. How many Council Members per ward
 - 1 response said 1
 - 7 responses said 2
 - 3 responses said 3

General Comments

General Comments received in the survey stated:

- Less Council Members equals lower costs and faster change management processes
- I currently feel like I don't get a say in anything as I cannot get council to listen to me when I have issues, and the ward is too big and the members don't represent people like me
- Despite question 2 about area councillors, none of the options in the representation review options paper present an option for area councillors. My preference from the options paper would therefore be option 1 or 2, with as few wards as possible
- Focus on these key areas 1) Technology - this is the future 2) Conservation and environment 3) Community Health and Safety 4) Transportation ease and access 5) Having economic opportunities and resources that enable residents in council to thrive in the future
- I want value for money. Council Members provide an important role, but I feel we are over represented and the resources could be better used elsewhere
- I found my local Council Members to be a great help when we undertook the Glandore laneways upgrade
- Question 4 doesn't allow me to say the status quo of 13
- Most important to have range of interests represented in each ward
- Councillors should hold regular, informal meetings every four months to listen to the views of residents and learn about issues that affect the ward or the municipality
- Two Council Members per ward works well
- If moving to a general pool, please consider proportional representation

Council has considered the feedback from the community and would like to thank those who participated in the consultation. After some debate at its meeting of 13 October 2020, Council concluded that the consultation was inconclusive, and it did not reflect the views of the full community due to the very low numbers of responses.

Response to feedback

The Act requires that Council response to the feedback provided and therefore, the Council considers that:

- Council has considered reducing the number of Council members to lower costs however, it considers that lowering numbers would reduce the service they provide to the community, limit opportunity for engagement and impact on community relationship
- Council considers that the 12 Councillors is the optimum number for good decision making and representation across the Council area.
- Area Councillors could be applied to any of the models however this is not an option that Council considers to be beneficial to the community as Ward Councillors are required to undertake the same duties and make decisions in the best interest of the community as a whole.
- The current representations structure was included within the Representation Review Options Paper as option 6.
- Council members regularly engage with the community at various functions/events, community engagement events, sporting clubs, community committees, in person, phone, written correspondence, etc. If a member of the public wishes to engage with a Council or a Council Member there are multiple avenues for this to occur.

Proposed Representation Structure

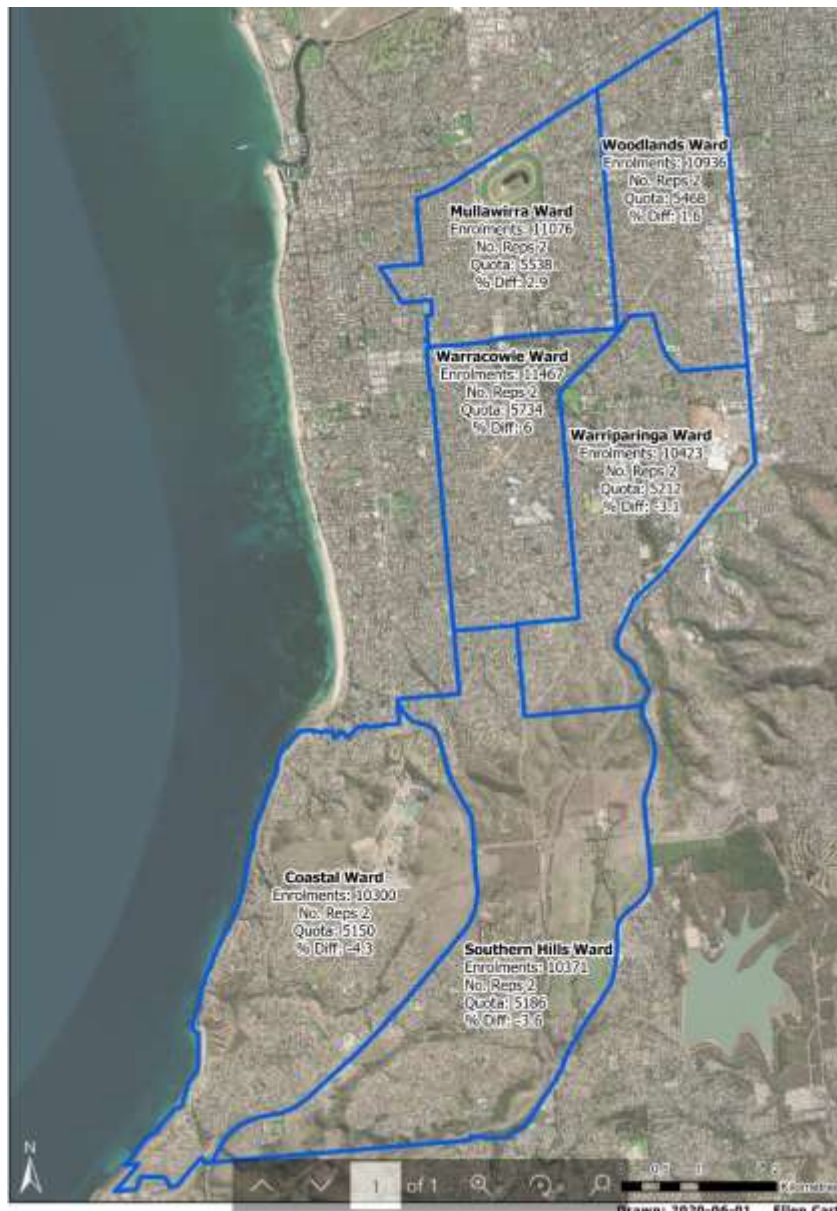
After considering the legislative requirements, the options and information presented in the Representation Review Options Paper and the community consultation, Council proposes to adopt the following electoral structure:

- The Principal Member of Council continue to be a Mayor elected by the community
- The Council area be divided into six wards as described in Table 2 and depicted in Map 2
- The elected body comprise a total of 13 Council Members, 12 Councillors plus the Mayor.

Table 2 – 6 wards quotas

Ward	Number of electors	Number of Council Members	Quota	% difference
1	10936	2	5468	1.6
2	11076	2	5538	2.9
3	11467	2	5734	6
4	10423	2	5212	-3.1
5	10300	2	5150	-4.3
6	10371	2	5186	-3.6

Map 2 – 6 Ward Structure



Reasoning for Decision

The Principal Member of Council

Council considered the feedback from the community consultation and determined that the City of Marion would be best suited with a Mayor rather than a Chairperson. This means there is no proposed change.

The reasoning for this includes:

- A Mayor is seen as a community leader and the leader of the Council
- The community elect a Mayor and therefore have a direct influence on the choice of the principal member
- A Mayor is directly accountable to the electors and not the other Council Members
- Elector interest in a Mayoral election may increase voter turn-out
- All metropolitan Councils in South Australia have a Mayor
- There may not be any Council Member interested in the Chairperson role
- A Chairperson can create a factional Council as it requires support from other Council Members
- A Mayor provides more stable community leadership during a four-year term
- A Mayor has a casting vote in the event of an equal number of votes.

Wards

Council has considered feedback from the community consultation and determined to retain its current structure of 6 wards. This proposal does include minor changes to ward boundaries to allow for representation quotas to be fair and equitable but is essentially the same.

When considering the options, Council considered the following:

- The current ward structure has been in place since 2010 and the community are familiar with it
- It has served the community well during over the past 10 years and provided good access to Council Members
- 6 smaller wards mean:
 - the workload is manageable
 - Council Members gets to know their area and the local issues, meaning local interests are not lost
 - Council Members can form good community relationships
 - Communities of interest are maintained within these wards
 - The wards have adequate room for growth and anticipated population with the quotas sitting well within tolerance
- The community feedback supported a ward structure rather than the abolition of wards
- Ward elections are less expensive than area wide elections, meaning they are viable to more candidates with limited means
- Electors can have the opportunity to identify more strongly with their ward member and form a closer relationship
- Council Members are evenly distributed across the city so there is no over representation from one area
- The workload is more equally spread therefore assisting with equality amongst Council Members.

There is no proposed change to Ward names and the proposed Wards are described as follows:

Mullawirra Ward is mainly a residential area and is bisected by the Sturt River. It includes the suburbs of Glengowrie, Morphetville, Park Holme and Plympton Park.

Woodlands Ward includes Edwardstown which is the industrial heart of Marion with a large concentration of small businesses and residential housing. This ward is bounded by the Glenelg tramline in the north, Daws Road in the south, Marion Road in the west and South Road in the east. This ward includes the suburbs of Glandore, South Plympton, Ascot Park, Edwardstown Mitchell Park (part) and Clovelly Park (part).

Warracowie Ward comprises a mixture of established residential areas and retail/commercial development including the suburbs of Warradale, Oaklands Park, Dover Gardens, Seacombe Gardens, Marion (part).

Warriparinga Ward contains the original village of Marion and the suburbs of Marion (part), Mitchell Park (part), Clovelly Park (part), Sturt, Seacombe Heights, Darlington and Bedford Park (part).

Coastal Ward is bound by the coast and Lonsdale Road. It is one of the larger wards by area, and features coast, hilly open space and contemporary housing. It includes the suburbs of Marino, Seacliff Park (part) and Hallett Cove.

Southern Hills Ward is one of the larger wards by area. It consists of parklands and a mix of newer, rapidly developing residential areas with young families as well as established housing. The ward includes the suburbs of Seacliff Park (part), Seaview Downs, O'Halloran Hill (part), Trott Park, Sheidow Park and Hallett Cove (part).

Number of Council Members

Council considered a reduction in numbers of Council Members. The Options Paper presented various options with a range of Councillors from 8 – 12. The community feedback supported 12 Councillors, however to be consistent, Council considered this response rate to be a very low portion of the population.

When considering retaining the number of Councillors at 12, Council took into account the following:

- The workload of Councillors is manageable
- The community has good access to Councillors
- Working in pairs forms good partnership between the Ward Councillors
- Two Councillors per ward is currently in place at the City of Marion and familiar to the community
- It is a common presentation structure across metropolitan Adelaide
- It allows workload to be shared and there is representative cover in the event of absenteeism or a vacancy.

Area Councillors

Council considered the feedback from the community regarding having Area Councillors however, to be consistent, the Council considered the response rate to be low and it did not reflect the views of the full community.

Council considered that Area Councillors would be an unnecessary level of representation when Ward Councillors are required to undertake the same duties and make decisions in the best interest of the community as a whole. The implementation of Area Councillors could cause confusion to the community with the old 'alderman' roles that were part of the Local Government Act 1934, due to the similarity in being elected from the area as a whole. However, Area Councillors do not hold any greater status than a Ward Councillor and have no greater responsibilities than a Ward Councillor.

Legislative Requirements

The Act requires Council take into account, as far as practicable, the following when developing a proposal that relates to its composition and structure.

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...”.

Table 2 indicates that the elector ratios in all the proposed wards lay comfortably within the specified quota tolerance limits.

Communities of Interest & Topography

The City of Marion is more dense population in the northern part of the City than the south, however in the proposed representation structure of 6 wards, community facilities are proportionately spread across wards. Sporting facilities, libraries, community centres, churches and schools are represented in each ward to provide access to the community. The proposed 6 ward structure includes Marion Road as a natural divider in the north of the city, whilst in the south, the topography of the hills and the unique natural landmark of the O’Halloran Hill Recreation Park and the coastline to the west form the ward boundaries. The south does not have the same grid design as the north however, it is separated by Lonsdale Road. As the 6 wards have been in place for the past 10 years, the community is very familiar with the structure and communities within the wards.

Feasibility of Communication

The proposed structure has been in place for 10 years and Council considers that the communication between Ward Councillors and the community is adequate.

Demographic

The Representation Review Option Paper provided more information regarding the population and demographic growth of the council. Council is aware that the population growth of the City of Marion has increased by 1 % - 1.5% in recent years. Council is conscious of over development however key areas of predicted development include:

- Cement Hill development at Marino (after 2021)
- Tonsley site housing development and minor infill in Mitchell park (current)
- Morphettville racecourse development (projection for 2026)
- Infill around Warradale and Westfield Marion (2021)
- Oaklands park add in?

The resident projections in the above suburbs could increase by approximately 20% by 2036, however this will occur over time and the proposed structure will withstand the current growth over the next eight (8) years.

Section 26

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
- 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).

As the proposed structure has minimal change to the current structure, Council considers that all of these requirements have been met.

Public Consultation

Section 12 (7) of the Act requires a minimum of three (3) weeks public consultation on the Representation Report. Council adopted this Representation Report at its meeting of 27 October 2020 for the purposes of public consultation. The public consultation period is from 28 October to 24 November 2020.

Copies of the Representation Report are available online via the website and Making Marion.

The public consultation has been advertised via:

- Gazettal Notice
- The Advertiser
- City of Marion Website (www.marion.sa.gov.au)
- Making Marion
- City of Marion Facebook page

The community is encouraged to provide feedback via the survey or a written submission to Council during the consultation period. Verbal submission to Council can be made at the 24 November 2020 General Council Meeting.

Written submissions can be provided via:

- Making Marion: www.makingmarion.com.au/representation-review-2020
- Email: communityengagement@marion.sa.gov.au