



REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOYDER



Representation Review Report



PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH
SECTION 12(8A) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1999

FEBRUARY 2021

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Regional Council of Goyder last completed an 'Elector Representation Review' in April 2012 and is required to undertake and complete another review by October 2021 (revised timeframe from June 2021 to October 2021 by the ECSA), in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1999. Section 12 (4) of the Act specifies that *"A review may relate to a specific aspect of the composition of the Council, or of the wards of the Council, or may relate to those matters generally—but a Council must ensure that all aspects of the composition of the Council, and the issue of the division, or potential division, of the area of the Council into wards, are comprehensively reviewed under this section at least once in each relevant period that is prescribed by the regulations"*. Each re

This Representation Report has been prepared in accordance with Section 7(a) of the Local Government Act 1999 and relates to the principles under section 26(1)(c)(i-xii). 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 over representation. It must also consider key communities of interest, population and topography of wards, feasibility of communication between electors and Councillors, and substantial demographic changes that may occur within the Council area.

Note: On the 4 August 2020, the Electoral Commission SA wrote to Council advising that the Minister for Local Government gazetted a revised "Notice of Determination of Relevant Period" relating to the review of Council's composition and wards, and advised the revised timeframe for the completion of the review for all of the June tranche reviews, is now June 2020 – October 2021.

2. OVERVIEW

The Regional Council of Goyder has a Chairperson, bearing the title of Mayor, and is currently divided into four (4) wards. The 'Hallett' and 'Robertstown' Wards are represented by one (1) Councillor each, the 'Burra' Ward is represented by three (3) Councillors and the 'Eudunda' Ward represented by two (2) Councillors, totalling seven (7) Councillors.

Table 1: Elector data as of 12 January 2021 under the current ward structure

WARD	CS Roll	HoA Roll	Total Electors	Elected Members	Electors per EM	% Difference
Hallett	23	367	390	1	390	-9.66%
Burra	37	1,246	1,283	3	428	-0.94%
Eudunda	16	945	961	2	481	11.30%
Robertstown	17	371	388	1	388	-10.13%
TOTAL	93	2929	3022	7		

Council Supplementary = (CS) House of Assembly = (HoA) Elected Members = (EM)

As at the 12 January 2021, the total number of electors eligible to vote in the Local Government election in the Council area was 3,022, comprising 2,929 enrolments on the House of Assembly Roll (HoA), as maintained by the Electoral Commission South Australia (ECSA) and 93 enrolments on the Supplementary Voters Roll.

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% tolerance. The Eudunda Ward quota of electors per Elected Member is 1.30% greater than the 10% tolerance of the ward quota and Robertstown is 0.13% greater and must be resolved as part of the "Elector Representation Review".

Council commenced its Elector Representation Review in October 2020, with the public consultation period extending over a six (6) week period from 30 November 2020 to 11 January 2021. Sixteen (16) submissions were received from the public.

At its meeting on the 19 January 2021, 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:

- Retain a Chairperson as the Principal Member of Council;
- Retain seven (7) Councillors;
- Retain a four (4) ward structure, with boundary realignment to ensure all wards sits within the 10% tolerance limit

3. INITIAL PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Public consultation for the Elector Representation Review Options Paper was held over a six (6) week period commencing on Friday 30 November 2020 and concluded on Monday 11 January 2021. Council informed the community of the review in accordance with Section 12(9) of the Act and circulated a public notice in the “The Leader” and “The Plains Producer” newspapers on 25 November 2020, “The Advertiser” newspaper on Saturday 28 November 2020 and in the SA Government Gazette on Thursday 26 November 2020. Council made copies of its report available for public inspection at the principal office of the Council.

Council received sixteen (16) submissions from the community during the consultation period. Responses received are as follows:

NAME	COMMENTS
Monica & Graham (Kingsley) Davies Point Pass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Favours to retain four (4) wards. Favours a review of ward boundaries with option 2 as the preferred structure, followed by option 3. Is not in favour of ward structures as per options 1 and 4.
Katie Preston Hampden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Favours ward structure option 4. Favours to retain current ward boundaries.
Charles (Peter) Herriman Eudunda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Favours ward structure option 4.
David Morris Hampden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Favours ward structure option 4 Fully endorses the submission provided by ECBAT.
Jenny Loftes Burra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Favours a change to a Mayor. Favours to retain a ward structure. Agrees a change to the ward structure needs to take place. Favours seven (7) Councillors plus a Mayor. Retain Council’s current name.
Denis & Maureen Keller Robertstown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain a Chairperson Favours to retain four (4) wards. Suggests Bower/ Australia Plains to be moved from the Eudunda Ward to the Robertstown Ward.
Russell Skinner Burra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Favours to change to a Mayor. Favours a no wards structure option 1. Favours to increase the number of Councillors from seven (7) to nine (9) plus a Mayor. Favours a change of name.
Mary Morris Hampden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Favours ward structure option 4. Fully endorses the submission by ECBaT.

Lyn Schutz Australia Plains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Favours to change to a Mayor. • Favours ward structure option 4.
Andrew Pfitzner Eudunda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Favours ward structure option 4. • Fully supports the submission provided by ECBaT.
Deb Selway Burra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Favours to change to a Mayor.
Anthony & Linda Pfitzner Point Pass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a Chairperson. • Favours ward structure option 3. Suggesting a change of name for the two (2) wards, possibly an old Hundred name about the centre of each ward. • Suggests maximum term of Council is three (3) elections, totally twelve (12) years.
Chris & Neil Purdam Eudunda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a Chairperson. • Favours to retain four (4) wards. • Retain current ward boundaries. • Retain Council's current name. • Favours ward structure option 4.
Helen Szuty Tanunda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback provided on the Elector Representation Review Options Paper with no specific option/s in respect to Council's future composition and structure.
The Electoral Reform Society of SA McLaren Vale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Favours a no wards structure option 1. • Suggests if Council does retain a ward structure, preference is given to option 3. • Opposed to options 2 & 4.
Eudunda Community, Business & Tourism Committee (ECBaT) Eudunda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Favours a ward structure. • Favours ward structure option 4. This is strongly supported by the general population of Eudunda. • The general population of Eudunda do not support option 2. • The general population of Southern Goyder do not support option 3. • An independently elected Mayor, although preferred by this community is not ECBaT's highest priority, although equitable representation is.

Council has considered the feedback from the community and would like to thank those who participated in the consultation. Council recognises that sixteen (16) submissions is statistically not a valid response and does not reflect the views of the full community due to the low number of responses.

4. PROPOSAL

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 continues to be a Chairperson (bearing the title of Mayor), selected by and from amongst the Elected Members, noting that the likely outcome of the Statutes Amendment (Local Government Review) Bill 2020 will be that the principal member of Council will be an elected Mayor;
- The Council area continues to be divided into wards.
- The future elected body of Council comprise of seven (7) Councillors, including a Chairperson.
- The four wards continue to be identified by letters (i.e.: Hallet, Burra, Eudunda, Robertstown).
- The Council area to retain a four (4) ward structure:
- Area Councillors will not be introduced.

Elected Members have identified two suitable options for consideration for future ward structures (4.1 and 4.2).

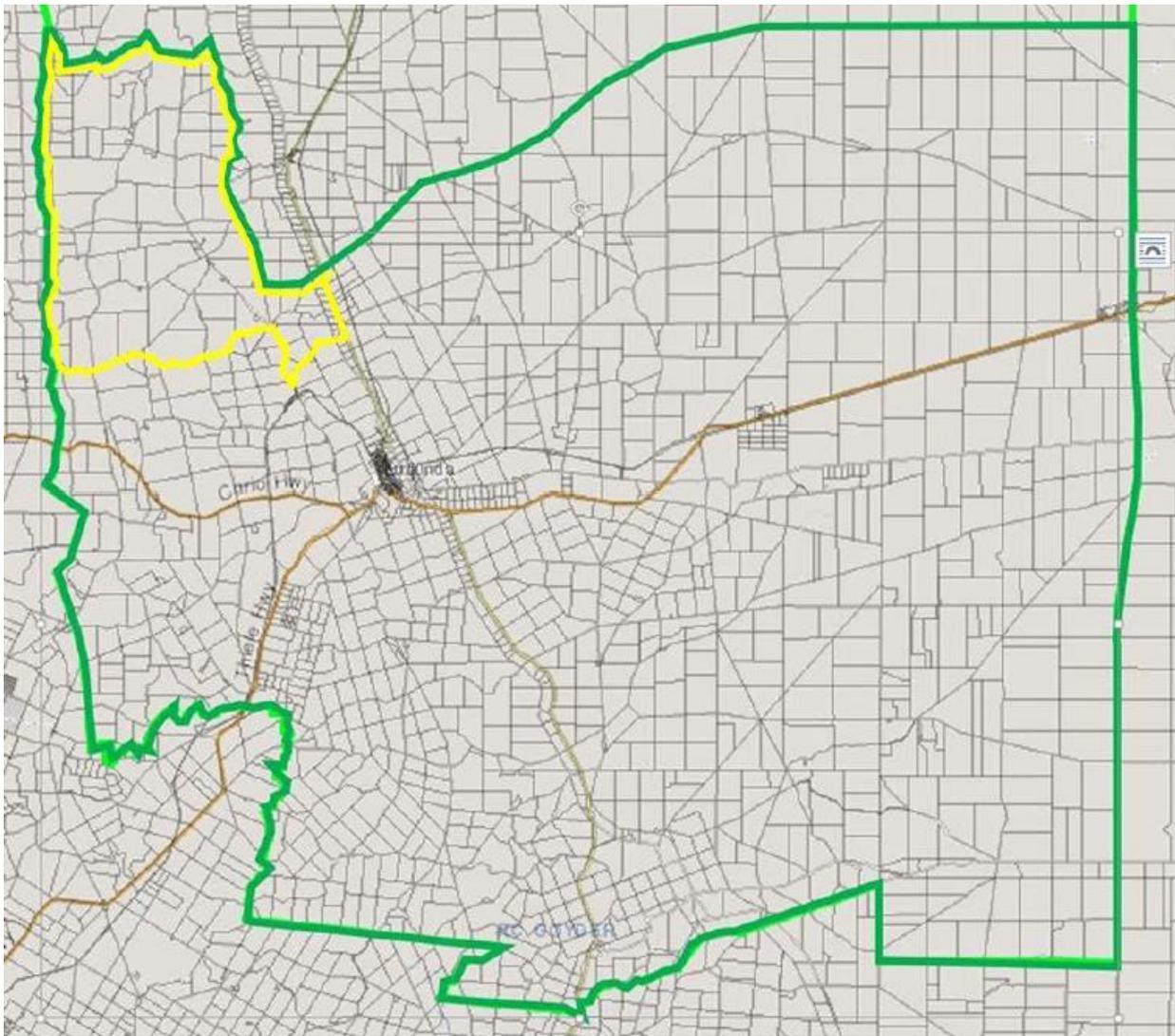
Note: These options were not previously presented in the Representation Review Options Paper due to updated elector numbers provided to Council by ECSA after the options paper was published.

4.1 Annexing Part of Julia Hundred

Table 2: Elector data under the current ward structure
Annexing part of Julia Hundred

WARD	CS Roll	HoA Roll	Total Electors	Elected Members	Electors per EM	% Difference
Hallett	23	367	390	1	390	-9.66%
Burra	37	1,246	1,283	3	428	-0.94%
Eudunda	16	884	900	2	450	4.24%
Robertstown	17	432	449	1	449	4.00%
TOTAL	93	2929	3022	7		

Council Supplementary = (CS) House of Assembly = (HoA) Elected Members = (EM)

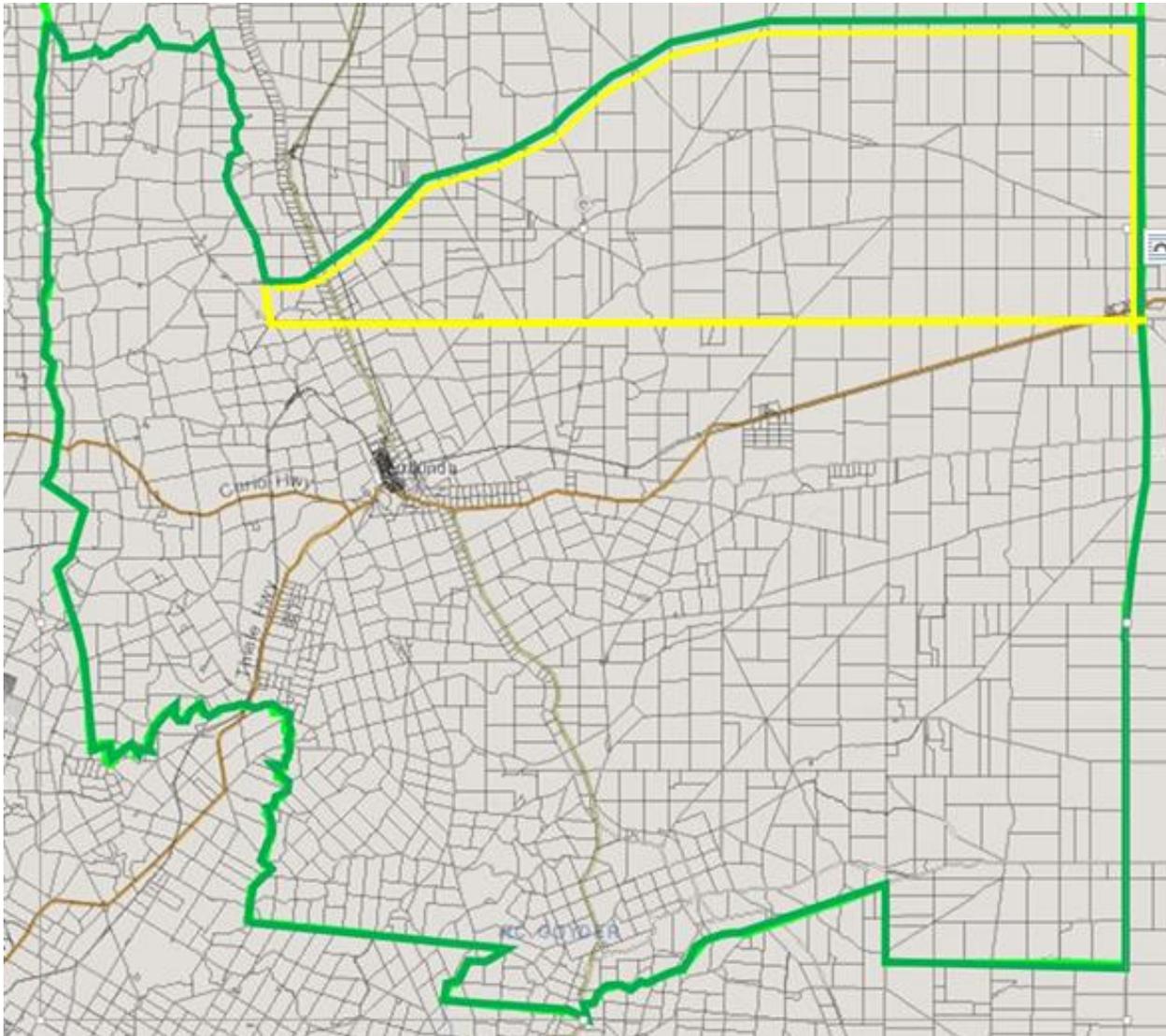


4.2 Annexing Southern Boundary of English and Bower Hundreds

Table 3: Elector data under the current ward structure
Boundary revised to Southern Boundary of English and Bower Hundreds

WARD	CS Roll	HoA Roll	Total Electors	Elected Members	Electors per EM	% Difference
Hallett	23	367	390	1	390	-9.66%
Burra	37	1,246	1,283	3	428	-0.94%
Eudunda	16	882	898	2	449	4.00%
Robertstown	17	434	451	1	451	4.47%
TOTAL	93	2929	3022	7		

Council Supplementary = (CS) House of Assembly = (HoA) Elected Members = (EM)



5. PROPOSAL RATIONALE

5.1 Mayor/ Chairperson

The principal member of the Regional Council of Goyder has long been a Chairperson, bearing the title of Mayor, and is selected by, and from amongst the Elected Members.

Of the sixteen (16) submissions received, three (3) of the submissions supported a Chairperson, with nine (9) submissions favouring the introduction of an elected Mayor. Three (3) of the submissions did not favour a preference.

Council considered the feedback from the community consultation and determined that the Regional Council of Goyder is best suited with a Chairperson, rather than a Mayor. This means there is no proposed change.

Council considered the following:

- A Chairperson has always been the principle member of Council and has served the Council well;
- Appointing a Chairperson allows for the Councillors to consider in detail the merits of each Councillor; their skills, expertise and experience so as to provide for the best possible leadership for Council;
- The extra cost associated with a Mayor, was not a good use of ratepayer funds;
- The Statutes Amendment (Local Government Review) Bill 2020 seeks to abolish the position of selected Chairperson;
- Any proposal to change the principal member from a Chairperson to an elected Mayor (or vice versa) at this time cannot proceed unless a poll of the community has been conducted in accordance with the requirements of Section 12(11)(a-d) of the Act.

5.2 Wards/ No Wards

The Regional Council of Goyder has always been divided into wards, two (2) of the submissions received supported the abolition of wards. Council has considered feedback from the community consultation and determined to retain a four (4) ward structure with changes to ward boundaries to allow for representation quotas to be fair and equitable.

Council considered the following:

- The ward system has served Council well in terms of representation;
- Electors can have the opportunity to identify more strongly with their ward member/s and form a closer relationship;
- The system is considered to be good based on a small population spread over a large geographical area; and
- It offers an opportunity to have Councillors fairly distributed across the Council area.

5.3 Proposed Ward Structure

The current structure cannot be retained because the elector ratios within existing wards Eudunda and Robertstown are over the 10% quota tolerance margin, and Hallet closing in on the 10% margin.

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 two options proposed for consideration for four ward structures, as depicted in Table's 2 & 3 (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;
- Exhibits ward elector ratios which all lay within the specified quota tolerance limits and are therefore capable of sustaining greater fluctuations in elector numbers;
- Has a consistent level of representation across all of the proposed wards; and
- Proposes larger wards (in area) which incorporates areas of perceived common character and, as such, serve to consolidate existing “communities of interest”.

5.4 Area Councillors (in addition to Ward Councillors)

The sixteen (16) submissions received during community consultation did not provide preference in relation to Area Councillors.

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. Area Councillors do not hold any greater status than a Ward Councillor and have no greater responsibilities than a Ward Councillor.

5.5 Ward Identification

Council unanimously agreed a change to the ward identification is not warranted at this time and the current names adequately represent the Council areas .

Ward names will remain as follows:

- Hallet
- Burra
- Eudunda
- Robertstown

One (1) of the sixteen (16) submissions received, provided feedback on the issue of ward names, suggesting a division of the Council area into two (2) wards and changing the names to possibly an old hundred name about the centre of each ward.

5.6 Number of Councillors

Council proposes to retain the current number of Councillors, meaning the elected body of Council comprise of seven (7) Councillors, including a Chairperson.

Council considered the following::

- The existing number of Councillors is appropriate given the size of the Council and the number of electors per ward. It was noted that to increase the number of Councillors would mean a review of all boundaries across the Council area, this was not considered appropriate at this time when a small boundary realignment will meet the requirements.
- Councillors acknowledged that as a consequence of possible changes to the Local Government Act having a Mayor rather than a Chairperson will result in an additional member, an increase in Councillors from seven (7) to eight (8).
- Of the submissions received, thirteen (13) suggested the following :
 - Eight (8) favoured to increase the number of Elected Members from seven (7) to eight (8), thus increasing the number of Councillors in the Eudunda Ward from two (2) to three (3);
 - One (1) favoured to increase the number of Councillors from seven (7) to ten (10), or nine (9) as well as a Mayor (if elected).
 - One (1) favoured to retain the current number of Councillors and increase the area of the Robertstown Ward by annexing a portion of the Eudunda Ward to increase the number of electors by 61 in the 'new' Robertstown Ward (and subsequently reducing the number of electors in the 'new' Eudunda Ward) as to have the Eudunda Ward quota within tolerance.
 - One (1) favoured to reduce the number of wards to two (2) and retain seven (7) Elected Members.
 - One (1) favoured seven (7) Councillors as well as a Mayor (if elected).
 - One (1) suggested if wards were to be retained, then a minimum of three (3) members per ward (although would prefer more), and an equal number of members per ward.

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...”

Elected Members have identified two suitable options for consideration for future ward structures as detailed in 4.1 and 4.2.

6.2 Communities of Interest and Population

It is considered the “communities of interest” within the Goyder Council area are the township communities of Burra, Booborowie, Eudunda, Farrell Flat, Hallett, Hampden, Julia, Mt Bryan, Point Pass, Robertstown, Terowie, Whyte Yarcowie, Sutherlands and Bower. When developing the proposed ward structures, 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.

Population projections provided by the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI), as at February 2016, are based on the 2016 Census population data. They indicate that the population of the Regional Council of Goyder is expected to marginally increase:

- Increase by 42 (i.e. 4235 to 4277) or 1% during the ten year period 2021 - 2031

Note: the population projections are not forecasts for the future but are estimates of future population based on particular assumptions about future fertility, mortality and migration.

6.3 Topography

The Goyder council area is 6,681 km² and varies immensely from very hilly and undulating country in the west, to flat open plain in the east.

The region is situated in the north Mt Lofty ranges. Other ranges which generally run in a north/south direction include Camels Hump Range, Brown Hill Range, Bald Hill Range, Tothill Range, Wanna Range, Porcupine Range, Black Range, Koonoona Range, and the Anlaby Range or scarp. Mt Bryan is the highest point being 936 metres above sea level.

There are numerous creeks throughout the region, the most significant being the Burra Creek with a good flow of water all year round. Other waterways include the River Light, Julia Creek, Baldina Creek, Stone Chimney Creek, and Newikie Creek. Most of these flow in a north/south direction.

It is considered that the proposed ward structures are relatively simple and an efficient division of the Council area which accommodates the existing topographical and physical features of the Goyder Council area.

6.4 Feasibility of Communication

Council considers that the proposed ward structures and retaining seven (7) Councillors is adequate and meets the needs of electors within the Council area.

6.5 Demographic Trends

Council considered the marginal increase in population and demographic growth of the Goyder Council area when considering best options for the composition and structure of Council. Consideration was given to the population projections provided by the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI), as at February 2016, indicates that the population of the Regional Council of Goyder is expected to marginally increase by 42 or 1% during the ten year period 2021 – 2031.

6.6 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 resources available to local communities should be used as economically as possible while recognising the desirability of avoiding significant divisions within a 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;
- The importance within the scheme of local government to ensure that local communities within large council areas can participate effectively in decisions about local matters; 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).

Council considers that all of these requirements have been met.

7. CURRENT PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Section 12 (7) of the Act requires a minimum of three (3) weeks public consultation on the Representation Report. The public consultation period is from 24 February 2021 to 24 March 2021.

Timeline:

	Task	Due Date	Completed
1	Pass resolution through Council to commence an elector representation review	March 2020	Yes
2	Council considers current arrangements and future options	20/10/20	Yes
3	Preparation of Representation Options Paper	Present to Council 17/11/20	Yes
4	First Public Consultation: Placement of public notice advising that the Representation Options Paper has been prepared and inviting written submissions (6 weeks) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SA Government Gazette - Newspaper with State-wide circulation - Newspaper/s circulating in area 	30/11/20 – 11/01/21	Yes
5	Prepare a report to provide Elected Members on the results of the consultation process and to seek direction in relation to the recommendations listed within the report, to enable a Representation Review Report to be prepared	Present to Council 19/01/21	Yes
6	Preparation of Representation Review Report	Present to Council 16/02/21	
7	<u>Second Public Consultation:</u> Placement of public notice advising the availability of the Representation Review Report inviting written submissions (3 weeks) and public meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SA Government Gazette - Newspaper with State-wide circulation - Newspaper/s circulating in area 	24/02/21 – 24/03/21 <i>Public consultation three (3) week minimum</i>	CURRENT
8	Council to hold a <u>public meeting</u> to hear and consider the submissions received	Between 24/03/21 – 08/04/21	
9	Prepare a FINAL report of any submissions received on the Representation Review Report	20/04/21	
10	Finalise Representation Review Report	30/04/21 Present to Council 18/05/21	
11	Submit Representation Review Report to Electoral Commissioner for certification	26/05/21 (Min 1 month for EC to certify review)	
12	Technical Description of Boundaries (If there is an alteration to the boundaries – contact Department of Transport, Energy & Infrastructure for a technical description to be prepared for inclusion in the gazettal notice)	30/06/21 (allow 2-4 weeks) (assuming EC has certified review)	
13	If not certified, determine follow-up action	30/07/21	

14	If certified, insert Government Gazette notice, on date specified by EC, providing for implementation of review	30/07/21	
15	Amend Council voters roll to incorporate ward boundary changes (if necessary)	13/8/21 ETA	
16	Inform community of changes to representation structure to come into effect as at next elections.	31/8/21 ETA	

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 17 March 2021 and should be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, Regional Council of Goyder, 1 Market Square, Burra SA 5417. Any person who makes a written submission at this time will be afforded the opportunity to address Council or a committee, either in person or by a representative, in support of their submission.

Further information regarding the Elector Representation Review can be obtained by contacting Emily Moore, Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer, by emailing emoore@goyder.sa.gov.au or telephoning 8892 0100.