



# GOYDER

South Australia's Heartland

**ONE GOYDER:**

*A united vibrant community that embraces change and is characterised by strong and responsible leadership.*

## ELECTOR REPRESENTATION REVIEW REPORT

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

July 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.*

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## 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 is represented by two (2) Councillors, totalling seven (7) Councillors.

**Table 1: Elector data as of 2 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%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>2929</b>	<b>3022</b>	<b>7</b>		

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

As at 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 than the 10% ward quota tolerance and both 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 12 January 2021, after considering the legislative requirements, the options and information presented in the Representation Review Options Paper and the community consultation, Council proposed 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 sit within the 10% tolerance limit

Community consultation on the DRAFT Representation Review Report concluded with the holding of a public hearing on Wednesday 7 April 2021.

Communication with the Electoral Commission comparing the figures provided by them on 12 January 2021 and used as the basis for preparing Councils Reports has highlighted that figures provided by them on 26 February 2021 are now outside the 10% quota tolerance between Hallett & Burra.

The Electoral Commission confirmed that the report when presented to the Commissioner must meet the 10% quota tolerance therefore; Council must review and adjust the boundary between Hallett & Burra prior to preparing and presenting its Final Report.

Table 1: Elector data as of **26 February 2021** under the current ward structure

WARD	CS Roll	HoA Roll	Total Electors	Elected Members	Electors per EM	% Difference
Hallett	20	365	385	1	385	-10.11%
Burra	33	1,241	1,274	3	425	-0.85%
Eudunda	14	940	954	2	477	11.37%
Robertstown	17	368	385	1	385	-10.11%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>2,914</b>	<b>2,998</b>	<b>7</b>		

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

As at the 26 February 2021, the total number of electors eligible to vote in the Local Government election in the Council area was 2,998, comprising 2,914 enrolments on the House of Assembly Roll (HoA), as maintained by the Electoral Commission South Australia (ECSA) and 84 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.

1. The Hallett Ward quota of electors per Elected Member is 0.11% greater;
2. The Eudunda Ward quota of electors per Elected Member is 1.37% greater; and
3. The Robertstown Ward quota of electors per Elected Member is 0.11% greater

and all must be resolved as part of the "Elector Representation Review".

With advice from the Electoral Commission, the ward boundary between Hallett and Burra was considered a 'minor change' and at the 20 April 2021 Ordinary Council meeting the following motions were passed;

#### 060/21

That having undertaken consultation on the Representation Review Options Paper and the DRAFT Representation Review Report prepared in accordance with section 12 of the *Local Government Act 1999*;

Council approve the future structure of the Regional Council of Goyder as follows;

- The principal member of Council continues to be a Chairperson (bearing the title of Mayor), selected by and from amongst the Elected Members,
- 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.: Hallett, Burra, Eudunda, Robertstown),
- The Council area will retain a four (4) ward structure,
- Area Councillors will not be introduced, and  
To meet the required 10% quota tolerance margin, Option 2 – Annexing the Southern Boundary of English and Bower Hundreds.

#### 061/21

1. That Council having considered the information received from the Electoral Commission pertaining to the required tolerance between Hallett & Burra and the proposed boundary

- realignment in accordance with Section 12 8(a) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, make this information available for public consultation from 28 April 2021 – 26 May 2021; and
2. That in accordance with Section 12(10) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, Council give any person who makes a written submission in response to an invitation under subsection (9) an opportunity to appear personally or by a representative before the Council or a Council committee and to be heard on those submissions.

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### 3. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

#### 3.1 First 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 also notified the community via its website, social media and community newsletters. 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"> <li>Favours to retain four (4) wards.</li> <li>Favours a review of ward boundaries with option 2 as the preferred structure, followed by option 3.</li> <li>Is not in favour of ward structures as per options 1 and 4.</li> </ul>
Katie Preston Hampden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Favours ward structure option 4.</li> <li>Favours to retain current ward boundaries.</li> </ul>
Charles (Peter) Herriman Eudunda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Favours ward structure option 4.</li> </ul>
David Morris Hampden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Favours ward structure option 4</li> <li>Fully endorses the submission provided by ECBAT.</li> </ul>
Jenny Loftes Burra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Favours a change to a Mayor.</li> <li>Favours to retain a ward structure.</li> <li>Agrees a change to the ward structure needs to take place.</li> <li>Favours seven (7) Councillors plus a Mayor.</li> <li>Retain Council's current name.</li> </ul>
Denis & Maureen Keller Robertstown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retain a Chairperson</li> <li>Favours to retain four (4) wards.</li> <li>Suggests Bower/ Australia Plains to be moved from the Eudunda Ward to the Robertstown Ward.</li> </ul>
Russell Skinner Burra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Favours to change to a Mayor.</li> <li>Favours a no wards structure option 1.</li> <li>Favours to increase the number of Councillors from seven (7) to nine (9) plus a Mayor.</li> <li>Favours a change of name.</li> </ul>
Mary Morris Hampden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Favours ward structure option 4.</li> <li>Fully endorses the submission by ECBaT.</li> </ul>
Lyn Schutz Australia Plains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Favours to change to a Mayor.</li> <li>Favours ward structure option 4.</li> </ul>
Andrew Pfitzner Eudunda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Favours ward structure option 4.</li> <li>Fully supports the submission provided by ECBaT.</li> </ul>
Deb Selway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Favours to change to a Mayor.</li> </ul>

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

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.

### 3.2 Second Public Consultation

Public consultation for the Draft Representation Review Report was held over a four (4) week period commencing on Wednesday 24 February 2021 and concluded on Wednesday 24 March 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 24 February 2021, "The Advertiser" newspaper on Saturday 27 February 2021 and in the SA Government Gazette on Thursday 25 February 2021. Council made copies of its report available for public inspection at the principal office of the Council.

Council also notified the community via its website, social media and community newsletters.

Council received four (4) submissions from the community during the consultation period. Responses received are as follows:



NAME	COMMENTS
Bob Dabrowski Ngapala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Favours combining Robertstown and Eudunda Wards and also a portion of the Burra Ward to meet the quota tolerance including an additional member within this 'new' ward taking total members from three (3) to four (4) in the Eudunda/Robertstown ward.</li> </ul>
Eudunda Community, Business & Tourism Association (ECBaT) Eudunda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Favours an extra member in Eudunda taking Council members to eight (8).</li> <li>Favours an independently elected Mayor taking the total members including the Mayor to nine (9).</li> </ul>
Chris & Neil Purdam Eudunda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Favours an extra member in Eudunda taking total members to eight (8).</li> </ul>
Peter Schiller Australia Plains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Favours a different ward boundary other than those provided in the report.</li> </ul>

A public hearing was held on 7 April 2021 to provide community members that had made submission with the opportunity to appear personally and be heard by the Elected Body on their submissions.

Approximately forty five (45) members of the community attended the public hearing and Council gave those that made submissions the opportunity to speak on matters relating to the DRAFT Representation Review Report.

Matters included;

- An extra member in the Eudunda Ward
- Potential boundary adjustments
- Process for calculating 10% variance for all wards
- Chairperson vs Mayor
- Public Consultation Process.

The Chief Executive Officer provided a legislative brief on the Representation Review process including the Local Government Reform Bill in relation to a popularly elected Mayor.

Council has considered the feedback from the community and would like to thank those who participated in the consultation. Council recognises that four (4) submissions is statistically not a valid response and does not reflect the views of the full community due to the low number of responses.

### 3.3 Third Public Consultation

Public consultation for the Draft Representation Review Report V2, specifically the suggested ward boundary changes between Hallett & Burra was held over a four (4) week period commencing on Wednesday 28 April 2021 and concluded on Wednesday 26 May 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 28 April 2021, "The Advertiser" newspaper on Saturday 1 May 2021 and in the SA Government Gazette on Thursday 29 April 2021. On 28 April 2021 Council also sent all community members directly affected by the boundary changes a letter informing them of the proposed changes. Council made copies of its report available

for public inspection at the principal office of the Council.

Council notified the community via it's website, social media and community newsletters.

Council received one (1) submissions from the community during the consultation period. Reponses received are as follows:

NAME	COMMENTS
Helen Szuty Tanunda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Feedback provided on the Elector Representation Review Options Paper with no specific option/s in respect to Council's future composition and structure.</li></ul>

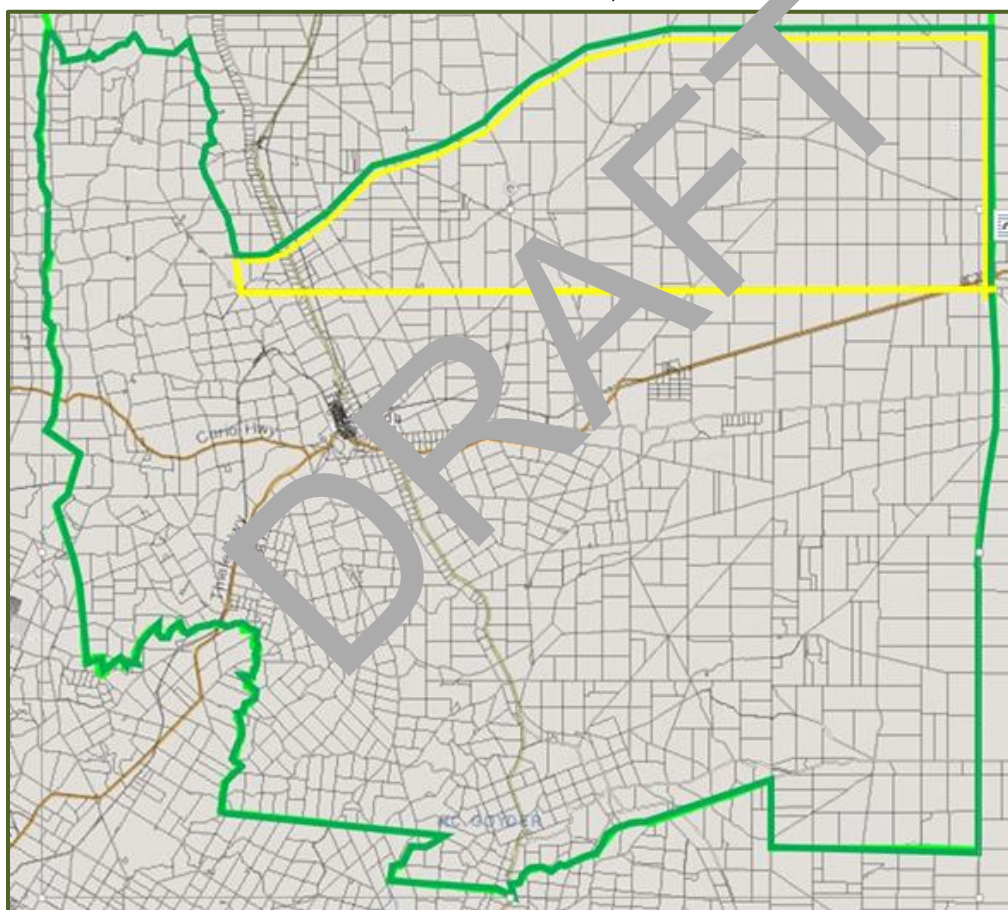
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#### 4. PROPOSAL

At the 16 April 2021 ordinary meeting, Council considered the legislative requirements, the options and information presented in the Representation Review Options Paper, the community consultation, and submissions and Council endorsed the following;

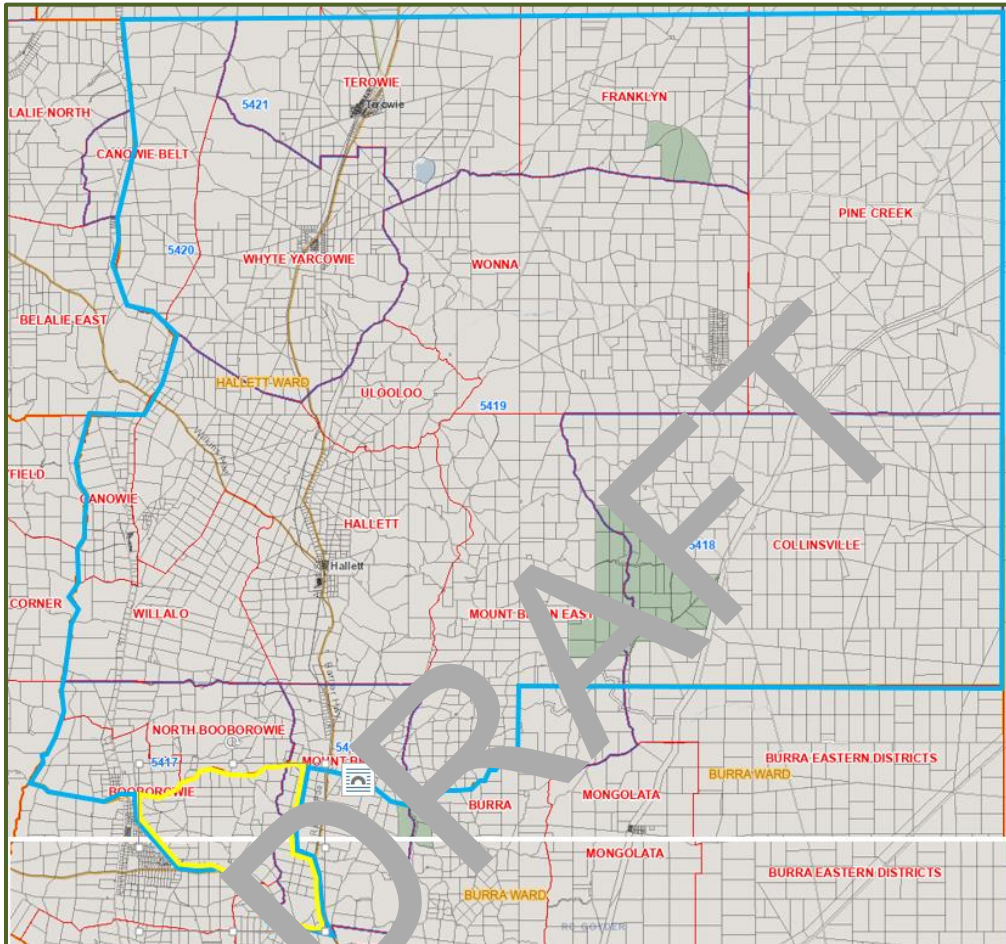
Ward	CS Roll	HoA Roll	TOTAL	Elected members	Electors per EM	% Difference
Hallett	20	376	396	1	396	-7.54%
Burra	33	1,230	1,263	3	421	-1.70%
Eudunda	14	877	891	2	446	4.02%
Robertstown	17	431	448	1	448	4.60%
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>2,914</b>	<b>2,998</b>	<b>7</b>		

Annexing Southern Boundary of English and Bower Hundreds to resolve the 10% quota tolerance between Roberstown and Eudunda as shown below;



At the 15 June 2021 ordinary meeting, Council specifically considered the legislative requirements, the options and information presented in the Representation Review Options Paper regarding the Burra and Hallett Ward Boundary, the community consultation, and submissions and Council endorsed the following;

Annexing a portion of Booborowie, Mt Bryan and Burra to resolve the 10% quota tolerance between Hallett and Burra as shown below;



*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.*

## 5. PROPOSAL RATIONALE & ANALYSIS

### 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 twenty (20) 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 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 and one (1) submission supported the merging of Robertstown and Eudunda for a total of three (3) 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, Hallett and Robertstown are over the 10% quota tolerance 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 proposed adjustments for the four ward structures, as depicted on page 10 & 11 are favoured because they:

- Are relatively simple in configuration;
- Are well balanced in regards to the distribution of electors between the proposed wards;
- Exhibit ward elector ratios which all lay within the specified quota tolerance limits and are therefore capable of sustaining greater fluctuations in elector numbers;
- Have a consistent level of representation across all of the proposed wards; and
- Propose larger wards (in area) which incorporate 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 twenty (20) 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 that 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 twenty (20) 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 at 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).

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## 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 the Options provided on page 10 & 11 as the most suitable options.

### 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, Hallatt, Hampden, Julia, Mt Bryan, Point Pass, Robertstown, Terowie, Whyte Yarcowie, Sutherlands and Tower.

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 km<sup>2</sup> 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, Wonna 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 system 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).

### 26—Principles

- (1) The Commission should, in arriving at recommendations for the purposes of this Chapter (but taking into account the nature of the proposal under consideration), have regard to—

- (a) the objects of this Act; and
- (b) the roles, functions and objectives of councils under this Act; and
- (c) the following principles:

- (i) **the resources available to local communities should be used as economically as possible while recognising the desirability of avoiding significant divisions within a community;**

*Council determined that increasing the number of Councillors would put further strain on Councils budgetary requirements and that the number of Councillors was appropriate given the size of Council, its small rate base and the number of electors per ward.*

*Continuing to utilise the ward system, provides direct representation to all parts of the Council area and the existing communities of interest and as a small regional Council,*

*we recognise that a wide range of variables contribute to economic development. Council ensures that it devises long term strategies, creating suitable conditions for economic development.*

*Note: Item 5.6 Numbers of Councillors*

**(ii) proposed changes should, wherever practicable, benefit ratepayers;**

*The proposed minor boundary changes will benefit those ratepayers that were underrepresented prior to the review with the structure still affording the smaller communities the opportunity to be represented by Council.*

*Note: Item 6.2 Communities of Interest and Population & 6.3 Topography*

**(iii) a council should have a sufficient resource base to fulfil its functions fairly, effectively and efficiently;**

*Council is confident that it is financially sustainable while still providing sufficient resources to achieve its objectives and the legislative requirements of the Local Government Act 1999, to use its powers and discharge its duties fairly, effectively and efficiently.*

**(iv) a council should offer its community a reasonable range of services delivered on an efficient, flexible, equitable and responsive basis;**

*In light of our regional location, Council ensures that those services it provides are broad, based on the needs of the local community, keeping in mind size, growth, development, population and community preferences.*

*Note: Item 6.5 Demographic Trends*

**(v) a council should facilitate effective planning and development within an area, and be constituted with respect to an area that can be promoted on a coherent basis;**

*Council welcomed the introduction of the new Planning & Design Code representing a single state-wide planning rule book and works closely with Regional Development Australia to enhance the development of our region.*

*Council is conscious of the potential for greater development given the burgeoning demand for regional land and living*

**(vi) a council should be in a position to facilitate sustainable development, the protection of the environment and the integration of land use schemes;**

*Council collaborates closely with developers and is proactive in advocating on behalf of the community for sustainable development which includes the Heritage Listed Burra.*

*Council promotes through policy, planning and action a continuence of environmental responsibility.*

- (vii) **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;**

*Note: 6.2 Communities of Interest & Population*

- (viii) **a council area should incorporate or promote an accessible centre (or centres) for local administration and services;**

*Council offer astute local administration in Burra and Eudunda.*

*Council also utilises works depots strategically located throughout the Council area to maximise efficiencies while reducing cost.*

- (ix) **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;**

*Not required.*

- (x) **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);**

*Note: 5.3 Ward Structure.*

- (xi) **a scheme that provides for the performance of functions and delivery of services in relation to 2 or more councils (for example, a scheme for regional governance) may improve council capacity to deliver services on a regional basis and therefore offer a viable and appropriate alternative to structural change; and**

*Council is a part of the Legatus Group – the Central Local Government Region which is a subsidiary established under the Local Government Act 1999.*

- (d) **the extent and frequency of previous changes affecting the council or councils under this Chapter or the repealed Act.**

*Note: 1. Introduction*

- (2) **The Commission should, so far as is relevant, give preference to structural changes that enhance the capacity of local government to play a significant role in the future of an area or region from a strategic perspective.**

Council considers that all of these requirements have been met.

## 7. SUMMARY

In accordance with Section 12 of the Act and instructions from the Electoral Commission the Regional Council of Goyder has conducted a Representation Review as follows;

DATE	TASK COMPLETED
<b>17 March 2020</b>	<b>33/20</b> That Council in accordance with section 12(4) of the <i>Local Government Act 1999</i> Council prepares a Representation Review Options Paper for the May Council Meeting.
<b>21 April 2020</b>	<b>059/20</b> That Council appoint Chief Executive Officer David J. Stevenson to prepare a Representation Options Paper to be considered as required by Regulation 4A of the <i>Local Government (General) Variation Regulations 2012</i> , the notice published in the SA Government Gazette on 1 August 2019 advising that the relevant period for the next review of the Goyder Council composition and wards is to be June 2020 – June 2021.
<b>20 October 2020</b>	<b>208/20</b> Council considered the following relevant issues; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wards (and Ward Quota) or no Ward</li> <li>• Area Councillors, Ward Councillors or combination of both;</li> <li>• Mayor or Chairperson (referred to as Mayor); and</li> <li>• Number of Elected Members – representation quota;</li> </ul> With the view to enabling a draft Representation Review Options Paper to be prepared by the Chief Executive Officer and to be considered at the 17 November 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting.
<b>17 November 2020</b>	<b>228/20</b> That pursuant to Section 12(5) & 12(12a) of the <i>Local Government Act 1999</i> Council adopts the Representation Review Options Paper as the basis for the first round of Community consultation on the Representation Review process subject to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Confine boundary realignment for Item 8.2 - Option 2; Item 7.2.2 be replaced by the CEO.</li> <li>2. That Council approves an un-budgeted expenditure of \$4,000 for advertising costs for the Representation Review project from General Revenue and that the Council budget be varied accordingly.</li> <li>3. That in accordance with Section 12(7)(a)(ii) of the <i>Local Government Act</i> the consultation period on the Representation Review Options Paper commence on Wednesday 2 December 2020 and conclude on Friday 11 January 2021.</li> <li>4. That the Representation Review Options Paper be made available at the Burra and Eudunda offices of Council and on the Council website <a href="http://www.goyder.sa.gov.au">www.goyder.sa.gov.au</a> and that the fee to purchase a copy of the Representation Review Options Paper be set at \$5.00.</li> </ol>
<b>19 January 2021</b>	<b>005/21</b> That following careful consideration of all the options and issues relating to the representation review process, and in consideration of the public submissions made in respect of the Representation Options Paper, Council require the Chief Executive officer prepare a draft Representation Review Report pursuant to Section 12 (8a) of the <i>Local Government Act 1999</i> , that reflects its deliberations and proposal for future composition and

	structure, for Council adoption at the 16 February 2021 ordinary meeting of Council for community consultation.
<b>16 February 2021</b>	<p><b>026/21</b> 1. That the DRAFT Representation Review Report – February 2021 as prepared by the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 12 (8a) of the <i>Local Government Act 1999</i>, be adopted for community consultation and be made available for public consultation from 24 February 2021 – 24 March 2021; and</p> <p>2. That a public meeting be held in Eudunda on Wednesday 7 April 2021 at 7:00pm to hear and consider the submissions received.</p>
<b>7 April 2021</b>	A public meeting was held giving those persons that made a submission the opportunity appear personally before the Council and be heard on those submissions. Approximately forty five (45) members of the community attended.
<b>20 April 2021</b>	<p><b>060/21</b> That having undertaken consultation on the Representation Review Options Paper and the DRAFT Representation Review Report prepared in accordance with section 12 of the <i>Local Government Act 1999</i>;</p> <p>Council approves the future structure of the Regional Council of Goyder as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The principal member of Council continues to be a Chairperson (bearing the title of Mayor), selected by and from amongst the Elected Members;</li> <li>• The Council area continues to be divided into wards,</li> <li>• The future elected body of Council comprise of seven (7) Councillors, including a Chairperson,</li> <li>• The four wards continue to be identified by letters (i.e.: Hallett, Burra, Eudunda, Robertstown),</li> <li>• The Council area will retain a four (4) ward structure,</li> <li>• Area Councillors will not be introduced, and</li> </ul> <p>To meet the required 10% quota tolerance margin, Option 2 – Annexing the Southern Boundary of English and Bower Hundreds.</p> <p><b>061/21</b> 1. That Council having considered the information received from the Electoral Commission pertaining to the required tolerance between Hallett &amp; Burra and the proposed boundary realignment in accordance with Section 12 8(a) of the <i>Local Government Act 1999</i>, make this information available for public consultation from 28 April 2021 – 26 May 2021; and</p> <p>2. That in accordance with Section 12(10) of the <i>Local Government Act 1999</i>, Council give any person who makes a written submission in response to an invitation under subsection (9) an opportunity to appear personally or by a representative before the Council or a Council committee and to be heard on those submissions.</p>

A previous Representation Review was conducted in April 2012 and resulted in a boundary change to the Hallett and Burra Wards to meet the 10% quota tolerance.

To allow Council to meet the 10% quota tolerance in 2021, Council has decided to adjust the ward boundaries between Robertstown and Eudunda and Hallett and Burra in accordance with Options provided on page 10 and 11 of this report.

The Regional Council of Goyder's structure will be as follows;

- Retain a Chairperson as the Principal Member of Council;
- Retain seven (7) Councillors;
- Retain a four (4) ward structure, with a boundary realignment between Robertstown and Eudunda and Hallett and Burra to ensure all wards sit within the 10% tolerance limit.

DRAFT

## 8. **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

All publications and reports have been sent to the Electoral Commission via email as requested below;

[Fran.Hurley@sa.gov.au](mailto:Fran.Hurley@sa.gov.au)

[Leeanne.Redpath@sa.gov.au](mailto:Leeanne.Redpath@sa.gov.au)

[Olivia.Hanna@sa.gov.au](mailto:Olivia.Hanna@sa.gov.au)

Please find all twenty (21) submissions attached on the following pages.

DRAFT

To Goyder Council,

The review paper didn't have a email address to reply to only Emily's so I'll respond here.

I think it is important the ward structure is retained, I think that local knowledge and input is important in making decisions that best suit the individual community.

Option 3 makes sense to me, splitting into 2 wards, A Burra ward and a Eudunda ward. Perhaps different names to take away from the individual town focus may a good thing, pick an old Hundred name from about the centre of each ward perhaps?

Eudunda ward has struggled to get council representation with 2 elected members, getting 3 could well be tricky and I don't think will achieve much.

The Chairperson / Mayor role does need changes, I suggest a maximum term of 3 elections eg 12 years. I personally think that is too long but also see the need for some stability. Fresh ideas and energy is always good within any management role. I'm happy for the chairperson role to come from within the elected members.

Regards Anthony Pfitzner



Anthony & Linda Pfitzner

"Gwynganna"

PO Box 13 PIRRIE SA 5374

Email: gwgfarm@bigpond.com

Home (08) 8561 985

0429 311 984

0417 111 065



Hello,

I would like to show my support to the response ECBat has provided council in regard to the Elector Representation Review, as well as fully supporting Option 4 in their response.

This review has been poorly communicated and presented and has not given the community the time and information required to have a say in what is such an important review. I hope the way this has been poorly presented is not a tactic of council to prevent community response and comment.

Eudunda Ward is a critical component of the Goyder Council and deserves its rightful place in the overall management of Council. As a business owner and resident of Eudunda, I am continually disappointed with the lack of regard Eudunda receives as a major town and community in the Goyder Council. We deserve to have equal representation on council.

Kind regards,

Andrew Pfitzner

DRAFT

David Morris ATF for the Morris  
Family Trust

1285 Curio Highway Hampden

PO Box 188 EUDUNDA SA 5374

Ph 0407723827

CEO Regional Council of Goyder

Cc: Mayor Matthey

Chair of ECBAT Judy Partington

RE : REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOYDER ELECTED REPRESENTATION REVIEW

I write in regard to the lack of representation for Eudunda Ward.

Currently Eudunda Ward is clearly under-represented and I fully endorse Option 4 which is for 3 Elected Members rather than the current arrangement with only 2.

I have read and fully endorse the letter provided by ECBAT to Goyder Council in response to this review.

Yours sincerely

David Morris

Dear Goyder Council,

Please accept this email as my contribution to a response to the Elector Representation Review.

At this late point of the day, I only have one recommendation: That the Regional Council of Goyder Residents be given the opportunity to elect their Mayor democratically rather than having the elected members vote in a Chair to Council.

In a small community, a democratically elected Mayor takes the pressure off elected members becoming vulnerable to peer pressure when voting for a Chair (especially when that vote is not undertaken by private ballot in the Chamber).

Further, residents of Goyder have a right to elect a Mayor based on democratic principles; to vote for their Mayoral candidate based on that candidate's experience and suitability for the role.

Below is outlined the Mayoral position as presented in the review document. Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback.

Deb Selway, PhD  
0417888243

#### 4.1.1 Mayor

- A Mayor is elected by the community;
- The election of the Mayor affords all eligible members of the community the opportunity to express faith in a candidate and the result of the vote provides the elected Council with an identifiable principal member who is accountable to the community;
- A Mayor is elected for a four year term and therefore provides stability and continuity to Council;
- An elected Mayor cannot be removed from office unless where legislative breaches are proven;
- An elected Mayor does not have a deliberative vote on a matter before Council, but has, in the event of a tied vote, a casting vote;
- The Office of Mayor (elected) is additional to the number of Councillors and, as such, come at an additional cost to Council (i.e. members allowances, administrative costs and alike);
- As an election (or supplementary election) for the Office of Mayor must be conducted across the whole of the Council area, a significant cost can be incurred by Council on every occasion the office is contested;
- Candidates for the Office of Mayor cannot also stand for election as a Councillor (at the same election) and, as such, the experience and expertise of unsuccessful Mayoral candidates will be lost to Council.

CEO Regional Council of Goyder  
Mayor & Councillors  
1 Market Square  
BURRA SA

RE: ELECTOR REPRESENTATION REVIEW - RESPONSE

It is the feeling of the ECBaT committee and many local Eudunda community members that the very restricted time frame held over the Christmas Holiday period for this consultation process is disappointing and a sad testimony to the continuing inability for the Goyder Council to communicate effectively with its communities, in a clear and transparent manner. It has been suggested that indeed it was an intentional cover operation considering the request to extend the consultation process was not supported at the last meeting of council.

ECBaT's comments are directed towards the 'Elector Representation'

**FLAWED PROCESS**

1. Poor Timing & Bad Communication of the review which has been carried out over the Christmas break with the mandatory review period of at least 6 weeks from the last week of November through to the first week of January.

Closing date: January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021

As stated per Local Government Act Sections 12(4) this review is necessary and Goyder Council is scheduled to undertake a review during the period June 2020 – June 2021

- So with now
- The Eudunda office does not reopen until January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- Those without access to online communication are completely disadvantaged and left in the dark.
- No mention of this review taking place has ever been mentioned on the Goyder Council Facebook page.
- So for the locals affected, apart from one small ad appearing in the Leader newspaper the last week of November, anyone that does not regularly hop onto the Goyder Council website are unaware of this review happening.
- The options outlined in this review paper directly affect the Eudunda Ward, however, no direct communication was made with the Eudunda Community, Business and Tourism Committee – no letter, no email, no call.

Yet the Policy Objective of:

*'Informing and involving the local community, key stakeholders and interested parties'*

is taken from Goyder Councils own PUBLIC CONSULTATION POLICY.

The Act states the review should be 'at least' 6 weeks.

Yet the two Eudunda Ward Local Councillors Schiller & Hibbert moved a motion to extend the consultation process (considering the Eudunda Council office being closed) at the December meeting of council in Burra, – this was defeated with no other councillor supporting this recommendation.

Anyone affected by, or interested in, a decision should have the opportunity to participate in the process for making that decision.

#### THE OPTIONS PAPER

Goyder Council is 6,719 km<sup>2</sup> in area. It has 7 Councillors, 3029 electors, 4 wards and a ratio of 1:433. This requires 1 hour travelling (over 150 km round trip) from Burra in the North to Eudunda in the South.

Prior to the last review Goyder Council consisted of 13 elected members.

Now standing at 7, this large reduction in numbers of Councillors has not been beneficial or equitable across the 4 Wards of Council.

Eudunda has seen an increase in population which has tilted the % difference and every indication is suggesting this growth will continue. (Section 3 Table 1 of the Review paper)

Goyder Council has 4 Wards with a representation:

Burra – 3 Councillors – with a ratio of 1: 420

Eudunda – 2 Councillors – with a ratio of 1: 489

Robertstown – 1 Councillor – with a ratio of 1:391

Hallett – 1 Councillor – with a ratio of 1: 396

***This alone supports an extra Councillor in the Eudunda Ward from 2 to 3, thereby increasing Goyder total to 8.***

***Thus, allowing for a more equitable representation and allow for each Ward to accommodate significant fluctuations in elector numbers over a considerable period when a further review is carried out in 8 years.***

ROLE OF AN ELECTED MEMBER as mentioned in the review paper is worthy of consideration.

Section 59 as quoted *'to represent the interests of ratepayers, to provide community leadership and guidance, and to facilitate communication between the community and council'* has been significantly impaired for our 2 Councillors for the Eudunda ward.

- Neither Councillor was able to attend the November meeting of ECBaT leaving their attendance at the December meeting to explain the upcoming process and conduct any type of community information opportunity through the December period was severely hampered.

The Local Government Act also advocates against the potential for dominance in the council.

As quoted from the report, this community supports the justification for increasing the elector number whereby:

- *Enhancing the lines of communication between Council and the community;*
- *The greater the number of Elected Members, the greater the likelihood that the Elected Members will be more familiar with the experiences of, and issues confronting, the local community;*
- *The greater the number of Elected Members, the more diverse the skill sets, expertise, experience and opinions; and*
- *An increase in the number of Elected Members may provide greater opportunity for community scrutiny and can make the Elected members more accountable to their immediate constituents.*

Costs/financial consideration for an additional elected member is mentioned in the paper but not outlined. Prudent managers conduct a cost-benefit analysis to evaluate all the potential costs, yet no amounts are mentioned.

Costs should not be a criterion for the decision when the benefits are considered.

## SECTION 5: ELECTOR REPRESENTATION (number of Councillors)

TABLE 2 'selected comparison' Elector Data as provided has not taken into consideration similar councils in area and elector population.

Apart from Streaky Bay with an area of 6,200km<sup>2</sup> (which has 8 Councillors) with a ratio of 1:198 all the other Councils listed are over 1,000km<sup>2</sup> smaller in area.

If just being above the Median is for consideration, I suggest consideration be also given to:

Lower Eyre have a ratio of 1:540 (7 Councillors)

Coorong have a ratio of 1:420 (9 Councillors)

Yankalilla have a ratio of 1:474 (9 Councillors)

All large in Area with similar number of electors. (3 – 3,700)

(Derived from information by the electoral Commission of SA current as at last collection of elector figures statistics from House of Assembly and Council Supplementary roll (28/2/2020))

*So, I question the relevance of comparing with other Councils when the focus should be on what is best for our 4 wards within Goyder.*

## SECTION 6: WARD STRUCTURE

### OPTION 1: NO WARDS – NOT A Viable Option

The Goyder Council is 6,711 km<sup>2</sup> which constitutes a 150+ km round trip between each of the main 2 towns. An elected member would be spending all the time on the road and would not be cost effective nor would it benefit the communities.

*The Eudunda community DO NOT support a 'No Ward' structure*

*Equitable representation, with the addition of an elected member in the Eudunda Ward, thus the two large wards of Burra & Eudunda both having 3 elected members each, is the preferred. Robertstown & Hallett remain unchanged.*

Statistical information sourced from the Electoral Commission SA, provided in the review, states a decrease in the number of electors in Goyder Council Area.

However, this may be the case in the other Goyder wards, but Eudunda has shown increased growth to have a ratio now of 1:489.

OPTION 2 – ANNEX PART OF EUDUNDA INTO ROBERTSTOWN WARD

**THIS IS NOT SUPPORTED BY THE GENERAL POPULATION OF EUDUNDA**

- This is seen as a penalty for growth by the Eudunda citizens.
- The addition of another elected member will not require any boundary alteration in the Eudunda Ward.

OPTION 3 – TWO WARDS ONLY

**THIS IS NOT SUPPORTED BY THE GENERAL POPULATION OF SOUTHERN GOYDER**

- Following discussions with members of the Robertstown Community, this option is not supported.
- Travelling over this area is extensive and efficient representation is difficult with added travelling costs and time for Councillors.
- It is felt a Northern V Southern domination with one ward dominating over the other will lead to unrest and inequality – highlighted in the Local Government Act for potential dominance.

OPTION 4: INCREASE THE NUMBER OF ELECTED MEMBERS FROM SEVEN (7) TO EIGHT (8):

**THIS IS STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY THE GENERAL POPULATION OF EUDUNDA**

- This will have a "small" impact on Council revenue but will be able to sustain elector movements without impacting on procedural issues and is within the allowances and tolerances.
- The "issue" of Cost should not be used as a means for "no change" .....The Council Ratepayers/Electors deserve fair representation to ensure their voice is heard.
- Eudunda Ward is a critical component of The Goyder Council and this Southern "Book End" deserves its rightful place in the overall Management of Council.
- There should not be any reason to alter boundaries or Elector Roll/s and would alleviate the need (possibly) to undertake a lengthy "review" in the future. Prior to the last review there were 13 Councillors in the Goyder Council.



IN SUMMARY:

- It is stated in the review paper the elector Representation Review must be 'Comprehensive' yet held over the minimum 6-week period during the Christmas break with no local communication and no support with the request to extend this time frame is disappointing. There has been no community engagement.
- This timing has NOT given the communities the opportunity to participate in this public consultation and are concerned that Council are not fully informed as to the needs and wants of its constituents.
- An independently elected Mayor, although preferred by this community is not our highest priority – having equitable representation is.
- Area Councillors or No Wards is not an option with the distance of 6,200km<sup>2</sup> to cover. Travelling time and costs are not efficient.
- Care should be taken when comparing one Council with another that all relevant Councils should be considered.
- Ward structure should remain the same, the Frimunda Ward elector % is greater due to growth in this area and the addition of an extra Councillor will ensure equitable representation and remain viable into the next review period in 8 years.
- The small financial increase should not be the criteria for the decision. The financial consideration of approximately \$5,000 (with reimbursements) does not outweigh the benefits for ensuring good lines of communication exist between a growing community and its Council.

Change should benefit the ratepayers.

The Goyder Community's wellbeing depends on all its constituents feeling that their interests have been considered by the council in this decision-making process. All groups, particularly the most vulnerable, should have opportunities to participate in this decision-making process, and all groups should be treated equally by their council.

I hope you all consider these comments with the sincerity they have been provided.

Regards

*Judy Partington*

CHAIRPERSON

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**THE ELECTORAL REFORM SOCIETY  
OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

<http://effectivevoting.wordpress.com/>

**President:**

Mr Bill Spragg  
PO Box 374  
Montacute. SA 5134  
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**Secretary:**

Mr Graham Pratt  
1/83 Main Road  
McLaren VALE SA 5171  
Mob: 0408 083 530  
Email: [grahampratt@outlook.com](mailto:grahampratt@outlook.com)

11 January 2021

Mr David Stevenson  
Chief Executive Officer  
Regional Council of Goyder  
1 Market Square  
BURRA SA 5417.  
(Email: [emoore@goyder.sa.gov.au](mailto:emoore@goyder.sa.gov.au) [council@goyder.sa.gov.au](mailto:council@goyder.sa.gov.au))

Dear Mr Stevenson,

**Elector Representation Review 2020**

The Electoral Reform Society of SA supports proportional representation for all elections, and we are very pleased that this method of election is used to elect all local government in this State, including the Regional Council of Goyder.

Proportional representation works better, the greater the number of members to be elected. As the number to be elected increases, the quota for election reduces and more voters find their votes electing someone. Also, the number of candidates usually increases, and this greater choice also encourages people to vote.

The Society's preference is for a single Council-wide electorate. In our opinion this is the most democratic method that can possibly be used, as:

- all entitled to vote have the same choice of candidates,
- all have the opportunity to vote for these candidates,
- there can be no manipulation of ward boundaries,
- this is the fairest method in ensuring that nearly all will find their votes electing someone and vote wastage is kept to a minimum, and
- thus, more people will be encouraged to vote.

While residents within each local Council need to decide how many councillors should be in their Council, the Society argues that either all councillors should be elected at large, or if it is decided there should be wards, these need to be sufficiently large (minimum of three-members but preferably larger), so that more voters find their votes electing a councillor. Our analyses of past elections have consistently shown that voters get more choice this way, as well as fewer votes being wasted.

On examining the four options in the Representation Options Paper for the Regional Council of Goyder, the Society's preference would be for the Council to choose Option 1 (no wards) as this would give a very good outcome, allowing the maximum number of voters to find their votes electing the candidates of their choice. It is disappointing that the Paper downplays the clear benefits of 'no wards,' particularly as the optimum democratic structure as the electors vote for all of the vacant positions on Council.

If it is decided that the Council should be divided into wards, Option 3 (one ward of three members plus a second ward of four members) is the only other possibility.

The Society is definitely opposed to the other two options. Both include single-member wards as well as a range of wards.

An analysis of the results of the 2018 election results shows that of those who voted in the ward elections, 25% found that their votes did not elect a councillor. This ranged from 32% in both Hallett and Eudunda Wards (with one and two councillors respectively) to 19% in the Burra Ward (three councillors) clearly showing that the larger ward gave the better result. In addition, in Robertstown Ward there were not even an election with only one candidate for the one position. This certainly did not ensure fair and equitable representation, and definitely does not encourage more residents to vote in council elections.

The Society does not support of varying ward representation, though this may be necessary in some instances. As much as possible if there are wards, there should be the same number of councillors elected from each ward. With varying ward representation this means the smaller wards give less representation as indicated in the analysis. It is surprising that the Paper incorrectly states that there is no inherent disadvantage associated with varying levels of representation between wards.

It is noted that there may be historic reasons for the varying size of the wards flowing from the amalgamation of several councils in 1997. However, it is probably time to move on, and to at least consider Option 3 of three and four councillors in two wards, though preferably Option 1, no wards.

Although it may have been believed that it was necessary to have a single councillor ward for both Hallett and Robertstown Wards to ensure local representation for an area that was sparsely populated, the fact of the matter is this does not guarantee people a councillor who supports their point of view on important issues. Geographic location is only one of the criteria that has to be taken into account when determining ward size and boundary.

Other criteria include communities of interest which may be political, environmental or social. The more councillors in a ward the better the representation of all points of view.

Yours sincerely

Graham Pratt  
Secretary

DRAFT

PO Box 180,  
Tanunda SA 5352.

10 January 2021.

Mr. David Stevenson,  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Regional Council of Goyder,  
1 Market Square,  
Burra SA 5417.

**Response to Representation Options Paper**

Dear Mr. Stevenson,

I wish to provide the following comments in relation to the Regional Council of Goyder's Representation Options Paper.

1. The Representation Options Paper, dated November 2020, published on the Regional Council of Goyder's website is identified as a DRAFT. Is this paper the final version of the Representation Options Paper for the community to comment on?

2. The author of the Representation Options Paper has not been disclosed. Section 12 (5) of the Local Government Act 1999 states:

"A council must, in order to commence a review, initiate the preparation of a paper (***a representation options paper***) by a person who, in the opinion of the

council, is qualified to address the representation and governance issues that may arise with respect to the matters under review.”

I believe that it is in the community interest to know the identity of the author of the Representation Options Paper so that an assessment by the community of whether the author is qualified to address the representation and governance issues that may arise with respect to the matters under review, can be made.

3. I am unable to find a reference in the Local Government Act 1999 which says that:

“As Ward Councillors do not have to reside in the ward which they represent, the traditional role and/or basis for the Ward Councillor has changed to a Council-wide perspective.” (Page 11, Representation Options Paper.)

As stated in Section 52 (2) of the Local Government Act 1999:

“(2) A councillor will (depending on how the council is constituted) –

- (a) be appointed, or elected by the electors of the area, as a representative of the area as a whole (whether or not the area is divided into wards); or
- (b) if the area is divided into wards, be appointed, or elected by the electors of a particular ward, as a representative of the ward.”

It seems clear to me that if the area is divided into wards, as is the case for the Regional Council of Goyder, then, an elected Councillor will serve as a representative of either the Hallett, Burra, Eudunda or Robertstown wards on the Council.

4. Section 59 of the Local Government Act 1999 states:

**“59 – Role of members of councils**

- (1) The role of a member of a council is –
  - (a) as a member of the governing body of the council –
    - (i) to participate in the deliberations and civic activities of the council;
    - (ii) to keep the council's objectives and policies under review to ensure that they are appropriate and effective;

- (iii) to keep the council's resource allocation, expenditure and activities, and the efficiency and effectiveness of its service delivery, under review;
- (iv) **to ensure as far as is practicable, that the principles set out in section 8 are observed;**
- (b) as a person elected to the council – to represent the interests of residents and ratepayers, to provide community leadership and guidance, and to facilitate communication between the community and the council.”

There is no reference to (iv) in the Representation Options Paper. Section 8 of the Local Government Act 1999 states:

**“8 – Principles to be observed by a council**

A council must act to uphold and promote observance of the following principles in the performance of its roles and functions –

- (a) provide open, responsive and accountable government;
- (b) be responsive to the needs, interests and aspirations of individuals and groups within its community;
- (c) participate with other councils, and with State and national governments, in setting public policy and achieving regional, State and national objectives;
- (d) give due weight, in all its plans, policies and activities to regional, State and national objectives and strategies concerning the economic, social, physical and environmental development and management of the community;
- (e) seek to coordinate with State and national government in the planning and delivery of services in which those governments have an interest;
- (ea) seek to collaborate and form partnerships with other councils and regional bodies for the purpose of delivering cost-effective services (while avoiding cost-shifting among councils), integrated planning, maintaining local representation of communities and facilitating community benefit;
- (f) seek to facilitate sustainable development and the protection of the environment and ensure a proper balance within its community between economic, social, environmental and cultural considerations;
- (g) manage its operations and affairs in a manner that emphasises the importance of service to the community;
- (h) seek to ensure that council resources are used fairly, effectively and efficiently;
- (i) seek to provide services, facilities and programs that are adequate and appropriate and seek to ensure equitable access to its services, facilities and programs;
- (j) achieve and maintain standards of good public administration;

(k) ensure the sustainability of the council's long-term financial performance and position.”

5. Table 5: Elector data, under Option 3 ward structure is presented in the Representation Options Paper on page 11, under 8.4 Option 4:

“Increase the number of Elected Members from seven (7) to eight (8) and increase the number of Councillors for the Eudunda Ward from two (2) to three (3) Councillors.”

If Option 4 is considered to be a genuine fourth option, retaining the existing wards of Hallett, Burra, Eudunda and Robertstown, then, I believe this option would not meet the ward quota criteria required by the Local Government Act 1999.

As stated in the Introduction of the Representation Options Paper:

**“At the end of the review process, any proposed changes to Council’s composition and/or structure must serve to uphold the democratic principle of ‘one person, one vote, one value’.”**

There is no discussion of Option 4 in the Representation Options Paper.

Thank you in anticipation for your consideration of the issues I have made in relation to the Representation Options Paper.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Duty.





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**Management  
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Hon Life Member, Australian Local Government Women's Assoc. SA (ALGWA)  
 Treasurer, RSL Burra Sub Branch. President, Burra History Group Vice Chair, Burra National Trust

## ELECTOR REPRESENTATION REVIEW

11/01/2021

David Stevenson,  
 Chief Executive Officer, Regional Council of Goyder,  
 1 Market Square, Burra SA 5417.

Good morning David,

I am definitely in favour of a separate Mayor election for the Regional Council of Goyder.  
 Residents do not feel as if they have a say in the Election of a Chairperson.

After the last Council Election, where a large percentage of the community had vocally  
 expressed their extreme disappointment in the performance of the current chairperson,  
 especially his negative attitude to tourism, candidates were individually asked at a large  
 community information meeting whether they would again vote for Peter Matthey as Chair.  
 Each candidate agreed they were aware of the community feeling and would not support  
 his election again.

Of course at the first Council meeting they all voted for Peter Matthey, much to the surprise  
 of the gallery watching. When questioned individually after the meeting, all said they felt  
 uncomfortable voting for Peter, as he would be a very difficult person in the Council as  
 just a Councillor and with someone else in the Chair.

You may draw your own conclusion from this, but this has galvanized the Community to  
 seek a separate election for Mayor, where the residents have a say.

As for the Ward system, personally I am in favour of this as it gives each a 'go-to' person  
 when they need assistance. It also focusses the Councillor on local matters, while still  
 keeping the whole of the region in their sight. It also makes it less expensive and more  
 manageable for Candidates to campaign for Election, rather than having to cover the whole  
 region.

Obviously, some redefining boundaries or components of the Wards will have to be made to comply with the Eudunda representation percentage.

As I was on the Board of the last Amalgamation under the Chairmanship of Barrister Angus Redford, I do think we got some of the boundaries wrong!

However, it was a very troubled time with forced amalgamations between councils that didn't really want to speak to each other. Personally, I think that Eudunda should have gone with the Barossa region, as it has more in common with them than us. But that is a discussion for another day!

I think that 7 Councillors plus a Mayor are adequate representation for the Region, so however you decide to change the make-up to comply with the requirements are acceptable.

I have no issue with the name of the Council and see no strong reason to change it at this stage.

I am happy to discuss any of these issues if you require further clarification.  
Kind regards,



Jenny Loftes

11/01/2021

CEO Regional Council of Goyder  
Mayor & Councillors  
1 Market Square  
BURRA SA 5417

Re: Elector Representation Review – Response

- I am very disappointed in the Council's timing of making this review available for public consultation. December is the busiest time of the year for the primary producers of the area especially the grain growing ones, and for our council to call for submissions by the 11<sup>th</sup> of January goes to show how out of touch the council is with its rate payers.
- Following the last review we went from 13 elected members to 7, this has been a huge reduction and has not been equitable across the 4 council wards. Eudunda Ward has been underrepresented by this change. Eudunda is a growing area in the council area and needs a fairer representation.
- So I therefore firmly support the option of increasing the elected members of council from 7 to 8.
- The position of Mayor/Chairperson of Council should be one chosen by the voting members of the whole Council area separate to the elected members of each ward. This person is a representative of the council area as a whole and should not be used to vote members of his/her ward when a casting vote is required. How can a Mayor truly represent the whole council area when they also represent the rate payers of their ward?

Respectfully submitted.

Lyn Schutz

Hi Emily,

I am not sure if you are the person taking submissions but I am sure you will pass this on to the relevant place.

1. One of the purposes of elected local government representatives is to advocate for local people. (as we see it!)
2. Given the size of the council area to population, and taking into account the distribution of that population, we believe the ward structure should be maintained. Being able to identify with a local councillor and raise local issues is important and we think would aid in meaningful and relevant decision making. Ideally, every councillor acts in the best interest of all residences regardless of where they live. Reality is councillors have limited time so coming from an area they know is an advantage.
3. As well as the number of people in each ward, the size of the ward should be considered.
4. Option 1 - NO
5. Option 2 – Yes This would be our preference. However will this really work? We have lived in Point Pass of over 15 years and can still not understand the ill will between Eudunda and Robertstown that appears with some regularity, especially around ward funding!! (it is probably the same few people!!)
6. Option 3 – would be our second preference. It would be more a more attractive option, if there were 2 wards with equal representation.
7. Option 4 – NO We see little point in increasing the number of councillors in Eudunda (Was consideration given to reducing the number of councillors in the Burra ward)

Thank you for your consideration.

Monica & (King) Graham Burra

Mr David Stephenson,  
CEO Regional Council of Goyder,  
1 Market Square,  
Burra SA 5417

Dear David,

We are hereby expressing our views regarding the representation review being conducted by the Regional Council of Goyder.

We believe the Ward structure should remain the same. NO wards or 2 wards is not an option.

An independently elected Mayor is also not an option. The Mayor should be elected from the elected Councillors as otherwise dedicated, nominated persons could be lost.

Bower/ Australia Plains area was once in the Robertstown Ward, then was added to Eudunda Ward, so now it can be moved back to Robertstown to even the numbers, instead of moving other boundaries.

It was disappointing to see that the advertisement was only in for one week in The Leader & Plains Producer, when it could have been in the Robbie Roundup & another week in the papers, as being in November when the area is busy with harvest & busy, this didn't give adequate time to see it. Also the time frame of 6 weeks could have been extended being harvest time, Christmas & Council Office closures over this time. This was very poor timing unless it deliberate! Why was the dead line not extended when motioned in Council meeting, even for another 2 weeks?

Yours Sincerely,

Denis & Maureen Keenan

To Goyder Council

Please accept this email as my response to the Eudunda Ward Representor Review Consultation.

Firstly I am disappointed to see that unlike the GM CROPS CONSULTATION, each rate payer was not individually contacted directly with the information and form to respond. This is an issue which impacts on us much more than the GM CROPA each, yet we only find out about the representation review ad hoc and being harvest, council office closures, Christmas/ New year break/ school holidays, many people will have missed it.

Secondly I fully support the submission by ECBAT and the points they have raised.

Thirdly, my preferred option is Option 4- a third elected member for the Eudunda Ward.

Yours sincerely  
Mary Morris

10 January, 2021

Chief Executive Officer  
Regional Council of Goyder  
1 Market Square  
BURRA SA 5417

**Attention: Mr David Stevenson**

Dear David,

**Regional Council of Goyder, Elector Representation Review  
Representation Options Paper - Submission**

Thank you for the opportunity to make comment on the 'Options Paper' prepared to consider elector representation arrangements for the Regional Council of Goyder (RCOG).

The 'Options Paper' addresses a number of key topics regarding Council representation, some of which in our opinion can be succinctly addressed, whilst others require more consideration. Our submission on topics which require less discussion are as follows;

Topic	Submission
Mayor or Chairperson	For so long as legislation allows, retain the longstanding existing arrangements of a Chairperson (with the title Mayor) selected by and from Elected Members ... (( We query whether the final sentence in Section 4.1.2 of the Options Paper accurately reflects what the Local Government Act 1999 ('the Act') says))
Ward / Area Councillors & Ward or No Ward Structure	Retain the existing arrangement of defined Wards with Ward Councillors alone. Council and community decision making is deeply 'Ward' focussed, (to give just one of many possible examples ... the existing, community accepted, system of Sport & Recreation and Capital Projects 'Ward Funding'). Any additional 'Area Councillors' are unwarranted in a Council the size of Goyder
Number of Councillors	Note from the data provided within Section 5 of the Options Paper and the comparative analysis with other Rural Agricultural Medium, (RAM), sized Councils that RCOG is significantly <u>under represented</u> in terms of the median of Councillor to Elector ratios. i.e. There is a good argument for increasing the number of Elected Members of Council. (We will return to this topic in discussion following)
Ward Representation Ward Boundaries Ward Identification	Retain the existing systems of Variable numbers of Elected Members per Ward, (once this has been brought into accord with the Local Government Act's requirements of not more than 10% variation in Ward quota) Retain the existing and well understood Ward Boundaries Retain the existing and almost exclusively accepted Ward Identification
Council Name	Retain the name of Regional Council of Goyder which represents history which is significant to the whole of the Council District. Any notion of changing Council's Name would require significant expenditure to establish a new 'brand identity', it would be confusing to many, and be simply an unjustifiable impost on the ratepayers.

The topic of the Options Paper which requires most consideration is that of the Ward Structure Options, (presented in Section 8 of the Paper).

Clearly there is a 'statutory non-compliance' issue arising in respect to the elector to elected member ratio in representation in Eudunda Ward and some variances are noted in the existing quotas for Hallett and Robertstown Wards.

Taking into consideration all the relevant criteria defined in Section 33 (1) of the Act we believe that the proposed Option 4 (as defined in the Options Paper),

***"Increase the number of Elected Members from seven (7) to eight (8), and increase the number of Councillors for the Eudunda Ward from two (2) to three (3) Councillors"***

to be the most equitable new representation structure.

This structure will,

1. retain the combined community of interest for Eudunda, Sutherlands & Bower and the localities of Hampden, Hansborough, Buchanan, Neales Flat, Australia Plains and Julia
2. will not disrupt the well understood Council operation strategies for the funding of local community groups (Sport & Rec. and Capital Projects 'Ward Funding')
3. be strengthened, by bringing elector / elected member numbers further into balance, if any or all of the following population driving initiatives come to fruition
  - the development of additional residential allotments on the Council owned land between Michael and Bruce Street Eudunda (however delivered)
  - population increases stemming from projects within the Mid North Renewable Energy Zone
  - the development of retirement housing (as allocated for in the Goyder Master Plan 2020-2035)
4. bring the overall Council elected member ratio closer to that for other Rural Agricultural Medium (RAM) sized Councils and to a ratio almost exactly that of our neighbouring Northern Areas Council.

We look forward to Council's consideration of our submission in the hope of good community outcomes from this representation review.

Yours sincerely,



Chris and Neill Gardam

To: David Stevenson,  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Regional Council Of Goyder  
1 MARKET Square, Burra SA, 5417

11<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**Re: Elector Representation Review - Response**

Dear David, Mayor & Councillors,

From the four choices presented in the council prepared Elector Representation Review November 2020, I believe the best choice for fair representation of Electors in the Eudunda Ward will be Option 4.

**“Increase the number of Elected Members from seven (7) to eight (8), and increase the number of Councillors for the Eudunda Ward from two (2) to three (3) Councillors. “**

I must say how disappointed I am with the Council's handling of timing and advertising of the Representation Options Paper part has been to our community. All of you and your staff of all people should know that the timing was most inappropriate and inconvenient to our community, as it would have to any farming community.

If you truly wanted to have input from our community, the review could have been delayed until Council was fully staffed after the January break, as the Christmas celebrations and most of the busy period for farming has slowed down.

I have also been surprised that Council did not widely advertise the review. Yes it was in the Leader and Plains Producer newspapers one week. I was also unable to find the advertisement on the Council website, which had been the normal practice for other items which are advertised in the newspapers. For some unexplained reason it was not on the Council website news, or the Council Facebook page or the emailed Council Newsletter, which had been normal practice for other “Advertised” articles. It seems a strange omission as people have become used to getting their news from Council that way.

I am also disappointed that the authors of the Representation Review did not approach the community representatives, in this case ECBAT for advice and feedback. ECBAT is here to advise council on community issues and sentiment, and yet the authors neglected our local experience and representation. I hope this will be improved.

Finally I am dismayed and horrified to read in the Draft Council Meeting Minutes on Tuesday 15th December 2020, that when Cr Schiller attempted to gain more time for the Eudunda electors to review the Representation Paper and to make submissions.

**6. MOTIONS WITH / WITHOUT NOTICE**

**6.1.1 Cr. Schiller moved that; the closing date for submissions for the representation review be amended to Friday 5 of February 2021, in view of the fact that the Eudunda Council office is closed until January 19.**

**Cr. Hibbert seconded the motion**

**LOST**

That the remaining Councillors voted not to allow extra time for our electors to examine the review and time to make a submission appears to be a blatant neglect of Council's own policies and a deprivation of the rights of the Eudunda Ward Electors to have a fair chance to review the paper and make submissions and to have fair representation at Council. They should indeed be ashamed of their actions.

Yours Sincerely  
Charles Peter Herriman (Peter)



Dear David,

I've only just seen this review today, so my comments will be brief.

### **Mayor**

I am an advocate for an elected Mayor. Under the current structure, a ward councillor is elected as the chambers chair. Because chairs are regarded as nothing at meetings that matter, a clumsy redress was applied by administratively rebranding the position to Mayor, making Goyder's position of Mayor a Mayor in name only.

If you subscribe to the principal of democracy that means having the position be openly contestable and should the position be contested, giving every elector a vote on who their Mayor should be.

Presently, of the 3025 electors in Goyder only 7 decide who their Mayor in name only is to be. Meaning the remaining 99.8% of electors have about as much say on who their Mayor in name only should be as the ants in the paddocks.

### **Wards**

I am an advocate for no wards. If democracy is the first principal, then under ward consideration distance is the second. Under a ward system we give power to elected members to make decisions about other wards free of any democratic ballot box accountability. So that's why in the first instance I am against them. The mitigating principal is distance. Broadly representation must be connected in some way to the area being represented. Given its just over an hour's drive between Hallett and Eudunda that makes the mitigating principal of distance a distant secondary consideration.

### **Representation**

When I was elected to the inaugural Goyder council in 1997 there were 13 members, today its 7. Reducing democratic representation by almost 50% is move that smacks of being driven by the basest of considerations, the short termism of cost, unmoored from any corrective principle. Over the longer term it manifests itself as a slow-motion institutional assault, as council representation to important community bodies diminishes and, in many instances, just evaporates all-together. Given the coming growth and responsibilities over the next couple of decades, representation needs to be increased, driven by principal with cost a consideration but not be given primacy. The principal should be rived from the RAM comparative group of Councils median, with the number of Elected Members from seven (7) to ten (10). To be clear if the Mayor is elected that means 9 all area councillor positions.

### **Recommendations**

- 1 That the position of Mayor become an elected one. (Probably moot as I think this has already been legislated for)
- 2 That Wards be abolished

3 That representation be attached to principle and that principle be the RAM median.

### **Name Change**

I support a change of name. When local artists tell me they hate the name it's a good idea to review it. Personally, I don't like any pretence in a name, like 'Regional Council of' Imagine the mouthful if Clare and Gilbert Valley decided to adopt that preface. Victor Harbor was full of it when they decided to call themselves the City of Victor Harbor, it should have come with its own laugh track.

So yes, it should be reviewed and a procedure adopted for doing so.

Regards

Russell Skinner

Hi Emily,

Please can you send a submission to David Stephenson, Regional Council of Goyder, That we wish to have a fair representation for Eudunda on Council and that with the current options we see **Option 4 – Have an additional councilor in the Eudunda ward making 3 with 8 councilors overall, from the** [“Representation Options Paper – ELECTOR REPRESENTATION REVIEW – November 2020”](#) as being the best option suggested, and that there should be no boundary changes.

Regards

Katie

*TD & KL Preston  
Hampden  
SA 5374*

24 March 2021

Chief Executive Officer  
Regional Council of Goyder  
1 Market Square  
Burra SA 5417

Re: Elector Representation Review

Dear Sir,

As a resident who may be impacted in the final outcome of this review, assuming that Council proceeds with their proposal, I would like to voice my concern regarding the process that Council has embarked on.

I do understand the requirements Council has had to consider in this process and am aware of the quota tolerances that need to be taken into account.

Of the 4 Options presented in the "Options Paper" that was available to us in Nov 2020, Option 4 appeared to have some credibility in that it had the potential to show that the Council was "forward thinking" and could see that there is growth in the Eudunda Ward. A little "tinkering" could, possibly, make this work:

*What could have worked, I think! AND I only "think"!*

*Is:*

- create 3 Wards (join Eudunda & Robertstown)
- Annex a small portion of Burra Ward to the above Ward.
- Increase from the 3 Councillors (above) to 4
- I believe this would sit within the "tolerance" and would set up this Ward for future growth and give an even voice in Council, in the "Southern Region."

*Anyway.... this is my view!*

*I think I have got my sums right.*

Unfortunately the way Option 4 was presented in the original Paper, was NOT an option that could bear fruit.

I am disappointed that, from the way I read the notices, Council appears to want to take the "easy path" and annex a portion of Eudunda Ward (only 61 electors) to achieve the Quota tolerances and satisfy the requirements of the LGA Act.

*"Sort of job done!"*

A better option would have been for Council to look at the Big Picture and create some Vision and look at moving the structure of the Council make-up to show the "Southern Region" of the Council that "we are with you all the way"!

I'm not so sure that this is the feeling currently within this community and they do deserve a boost to morale and attitude.

I will attend the Meeting planned for the 7<sup>th</sup> April and would be happy to discuss them.  
This is a short summary of my thoughts and am prepared to expand on them!

Sincerely,

Bob Dabrowski



## Eudunda Community, Business and Tourism Committee

CEO Regional Council of Goyder  
Mayor & Councillors  
1 Market Square  
BURRA SA 5417

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021

### RE: ELECTOR REPRESENTATION REVIEW - RESPONSE

Dear David & Members,

I can only reiterate from my previous correspondence the consensus of the Eudunda Community is to strongly support the original option 4 to increase the number of elected members from 7 to 8. This community also strongly supports the introduction of an independently elected Mayor.

Eudunda is growing, in approximately 12 months this town has seen:

- 27 houses sold
- 4 more currently under offer
- The only 2 remaining vacant blocks;
  - 1 has been sold
  - The remaining block is under offer

This review requires strategic thinking from Council who can support and encourage the continued future growth of one of its "main towns/" "Bookends".

The current proposal being considered by Council is a "Band-Aid fix" and deemed by ECbAT and the Eudunda Community as a last resort which only penalises a strong growth area by reducing it in size.

A comprehensive investigation into the realignment of ALL ward Boundaries with 3 elected members in Burra and Eudunda, 1 each in the Hallet & Robertstown wards would result in a more equitable representation and allow for each Ward to accommodate significant fluctuations in elector numbers, over a considerable period when a further review is carried out in approx. 8 years. The additional introduction of an independently elected Mayor would thus increase elected numbers to 9 overall which is considered a more effective administration.

I trust you give my comments due consideration.

Yours Sincerely

Judy Partington

Chairperson: Judy Partington

Ph: 0408081127 [chairperson@ecbat.biz](mailto:chairperson@ecbat.biz)

Secretary: Annie Wilson [secretary@ecbat.biz](mailto:secretary@ecbat.biz)

PO Box 296, EUDUNDA SA 5374

ABN 29 808 413 830

<https://ecbat.biz>

<https://eudunda.net>

23 January, 2021

Chief Executive Officer  
Regional Council of Goyder  
1 Market Square  
BURRA SA 5417

**Attention: Mr David Stevenson**

Dear David,

**Regional Council of Goyder, Elector Representation Review  
Representation Review Report - Submission**

Having previously taken the opportunity to make comment on the Regional Council of Goyder elector representation review 'Options Paper', having listened to Council debate on submissions received and having read the most recent Representation Review Report we make the following comments;

- We find it frankly disingenuous that Council effectively dismisses the 16 public submissions made in response to Council's Options paper using the terms *"not a statistically valid response"* and *"it does not reflect the views of the full community"* when, in regional local government terms, 16 public submissions is a significant community response. ( particularly when one of the submissions was from the Eudunda Community Business and Tourism .. effectively the Community Management Committee for the southern portion of the Council district ) ... It is further interesting to note that the ratio 16 submissions in 3000 (approx.) electors in Goyder is only fractionally different from the ratio of submissions received in a recent community response to a Heliport proposal within the metropolitan Council of Norwood Payneham & St Peters and the number of 16 public submissions so far exceeds the average yearly level of community submissions in response to Regional Council of Goyder's own Annual Business Plan and Budget.
- The new representation structure (as proposed in Section 4 of the Representation Review Report) which only seeks to adjust the common boundary between Eudunda and Robertstown Wards (in one of two ways), takes no account of half of the public submissions to the Options Paper which supported an increase in the number of Councilors for Eudunda Ward from two (2) to three (3) Councillors and the increase of the total number of elected members from seven (7) to eight (8).
- An increase in the total number of elected members from seven (7) to eight (8) would also bring the overall Council elected membership closer to that for other Rural Agricultural Medium (RAM) sized Councils and to a ratio almost exactly that of our neighbouring Northern Areas Council.
- The representation review report further seeks to propose a 'tinkering' with the Eudunda Ward / Robertstown Ward boundaries and yet is completely silent in respect to very near tolerance of -9.51% in the Hallett Ward / Burrumbidgee Ward boundary .. we would certainly suggest that this omission is not in accord with the objective of a 'whole of Council district' representation review.

In light of the before mentioned matters we urge Council to reconsider the proposed electoral structure, in particular the proposed Ward boundaries and respective representation and the total number of elected members, to provide a 'more just' representation for the Eudunda community of interest and council electors more generally.

Yours sincerely,



Chris and Neil Purdam  
**Ratepayers - Eudunda Ward (Rural)**

Emily,

Here is my submission for the boundary change between Eudunda and Robertstown wards.

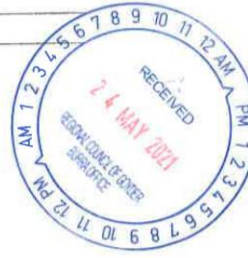
That these roads form the new boundary between Eudunda and Robertstown wards Starting from Schulz rd to Plains rd to Australia Plains rd to Sutherlands rd to Border rd to the council boundary .this will take enough voters from Eudunda ward to be under the 10% tolerance and will leave the majority in Eudunda rather than the two current options that take more voters and land than necessary .also the more land that is taken from Eudunda means that Eudunda will have less ward funding .i also believe that this option will be more favourable to the residents of Eudunda than the two current options .

From peter schiller

Sent from my iPad

DRAFT

FILE: \_\_\_\_\_  
REF: \_\_\_\_\_  
N/A: \_\_\_\_\_  
OFFICER: \_\_\_\_\_



PO Box 180,  
Tanunda SA 5352.

23 May 2021.

Mr. David Stevenson,  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Regional Council of Goyder,  
1 Market Square,  
Burra SA 5417.

**Response to Elector Representation Review Report V2**

Dear Mr. Stevenson,

I wish to provide the following comments in relation to the Regional Council of Goyder's  
Elector Representation Review Report V2.

1. On the title page of the Elector Representation Review Report V2, you state that the Report has been "prepared in accordance with section 12 (8a) of the *Local Government Act 1999*."

This is not strictly correct.

Section 12 (8a) of the *Local Government Act 1999* states:

"(8a) The council must, at the conclusion of the public consultation undertaken under subsection (7) (a), prepare a report that –

- (a) provides information on the public consultation and the council's response to the issues arising from the submissions made as part of that process; and

- (b) sets out –
- (i) any proposal that the council considers should be carried into effect under this section; and
  - (ii) in respect of any such proposal – an analysis of how the proposal relates to the principles under section 26 (1) (c) and the matters referred to in section 33 (to the extent that may be relevant); and
- (c) insofar as a decision of the council is not to adopt any change under consideration as part of the representation options paper or the public consultation process – sets out the reasons for the council's decision."

Section 26 (1) (c) of the *Local Government Act 1999* states:

"(1) The Commission should, in arriving at recommendations for the purposes of this Chapter (but taking into account the nature of the proposal under consideration), have regard to –

(c) the following principles:

- (i) the resources available to local communities should be used as economically as possible while recognising the desirability of avoiding significant divisions within a community;
- (ii) proposed changes should, wherever practicable, benefit ratepayers;
- (iii) a council should have a sufficient resource base to fulfil its functions fairly, effectively and efficiently;
- (iv) a council should offer its community a reasonable range of services delivered on an efficient, flexible, equitable and responsive basis;
- (v) a council should facilitate effective planning and development within an area, and be constituted with respect to an area that can be promoted on a coherent basis;
- (vi) a council should be in a position to facilitate sustainable development, the protection of the environment and the integration of land use schemes;
- (vii) 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;
- (viii) a council area should incorporate or promote an accessible centre (or centres) for local administration and services;



- (ix) 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;
- (x) 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);
- (xi) a scheme that provides for the performance of functions and delivery of services in relation to 2 or more councils (for example, a scheme for regional governance) may improve councils' capacity to deliver services on a regional basis and therefore offer a viable and appropriate alternative to structural change;"

Not all of these principles were addressed or commented on by the Regional Council of Goyder on page 16 of the Elector Representation Review Report V2.

2. The outcome of the most recent Representation Review by the Regional Council of Goyder was the transfer of electors from the Burra Ward to the Hallett Ward. The same outcome is proposed by the Regional Council of Goyder in the April 2021 Elector Representation Review Report. This outcome is obviously not sustainable in the long term and should be addressed.

This option was also not considered in the Representation Options Paper – Elector Representation Review released for public consultation in November 2020.

As a result of the Representation Options Paper recommending the transfer of electors from the Eudunda Ward to the Robertstown Ward, a public meeting was convened by the Regional Council of Goyder to consult with electors. A public meeting of electors has yet to be convened by the Regional Council of Goyder to consult with electors about the proposed transfer of electors from the Burra Ward to the Hallett Ward.

3. The third issue I raised in my response dated the 10<sup>th</sup> of January 2021 to the Regional Council of Goyder's Representation Options Paper is yet to be addressed by the Regional Council of Goyder:

"I am unable to find a reference in the Local Government Act 1999 which says that:

"As Ward Councillors do not have to reside in the ward which they represent, the traditional role and/or basis for the Ward Councillor has changed to a Council wide perspective." (Page 11, Representation Options Paper.)

As stated in Section 52 (2) of the Local Government Act 1999:

"(2) A councillor will (depending on how the council is constituted) –

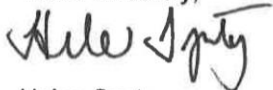
- (a) be appointed, or elected by the electors for the area, as a representative of the area as a whole (whether or not the area is divided into wards); or
- (b) if the area is divided into wards – be appointed or elected by the electors of a particular ward, as a representative of the ward."

It seems clear to me that if the area is divided into wards, as is the case for the Regional Council of Goyder, then, an elected Councillor will serve as a representative of either the Hallett, Burra, Eudunda or Robertstown wards on the Council."

4. The Regional Council of Goyder considered population projections provided by the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure as at February 2016 but did not refer to the previous Census. Because of the emergence of COVID19, demographic changes in the foreseeable future could be considered to be unpredictable. Already, population movement from Adelaide to regional areas of South Australia has been noted.

Thank you in anticipation for your consideration of the issues I have made in relation to the Elector Representation Review Report V2.

Yours sincerely,



Helen Szuty.