

DISCUSSION PAPER

REVIEW OF WARDS AND REPRESENTATION DECEMBER 2013

1. BACKGROUND

The Shire of Roebourne has resolved to undertake a review of its ward system to comply with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act).

Schedule 2.2 of the Act requires local governments with wards to carry out reviews of the ward boundaries and the number of Councillors for each ward from time to time, so that no more than eight years elapse between successive reviews. There are five prescribed factors to be considered in the review process. They include:

- community of interest;
- physical and topographical features;
- demographic trends;
- economic factors; and
- the ratio of Councillors to electors in the various wards.

A ward review was last undertaken by the Shire of Roebourne in August 2006. This followed three reviews held in 2001, 2002 and 2004. On all occasions, Council recommended to the Board that the status quo be retained, that is, to keep the same number of Councillors and ward structure as it currently exists.

The Board repeatedly rejected the Council's recommendation, requesting that the review be redone. Reasons provided were in relation to the imbalance in representation, primarily based on the Councillor/Elector ratios which did not fall within the Board's preferred +/-10% variance across the wards. Council had acknowledged the disparity within Councillor/Elector ratios across the wards, but deemed that this was appropriate and necessary to adequately represent the Shire's constituents within wards which have very distinct communities of interest.

With the eight year review period drawing near, it is now appropriate to revisit the ward boundaries once more. This is particularly important with the significant population growth experienced by the Shire, as indicated in the following table:

Ward	Population* and Electors^	2006	2014	% Change
Karratha	Population	11,489	16,490	44%
	Electors	6,194	6,939	12%
Wickham/Point Samson	Population	2,303	2,334	1%
	Electors	1,039	924	-11%
Dampier	Population	1,365	1,366	<1%
	Electors	786	653	-17%
Roebourne & Pastoral Areas	Population	1,253	2,802	124%
	Electors	637	579	-9%
TOTAL SHIRE POPULATION		16,410	22,992	39%
TOTAL Electors		8,656	9,095	5%

* Population Data Source: ABS Census Data 2011;

^ Elector Data Source: Shire of Roebourne Electoral Roll Data 2013

2. CURRENT SITUATION

The Shire of Roebourne is an expansive local government area covering 15,278 km², with a population density of less than 0.02 persons per hectare. Located on the coast, 1,500kms from Perth, the Shire is one of four local government authorities which make up the Pilbara Region in the North West of Australia. It is bordered by the Town of Port Hedland to the east and the Shire of Ashburton to the south.

The Ngarluma and Yindjibarndi Aboriginal people are the original inhabitants of the Roebourne area with European settlement dating back to the 1860s. Data released from the 2011 census indicates that the Shire now boasts a total population of 22,992.

Within the Shire, there are four wards:

- Karratha Ward
- Dampier Ward
- Wickham/Point Samson Ward (includes Cossack)
- Roebourne Ward

As the major service hub for the Pilbara minerals and energy sector, each settlement offers its own character and plays a unique role to the Shire.

The following table summarises the Shire of Roebourne's current position in terms of wards and their representation:

Ward	Total Population	Electors	Councillors	% electors per ward population	Councillor /Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
Karratha	16,490	6,939	6	42%	1 : 1157	-40%
Wickham/Point Samson	2,334	924	2	40%	1 : 462	44%
Dampier	1,366	653	2	48%	1 : 327	61%
Roebourne	2,802	579	1	21%	1 : 579	30%
TOTALS	22,992	9,095	11		AVE = 827	

The task before the Council regarding the Councillor to Elector ratio is to achieve the closest ratio deviation between each of the wards, the required deviation being within +/-10%.

In addition, the Minister for Local Government released as a structural reform strategy paper in February 2009 the expectation for local governments to reduce the number of elected members to between six and nine. This is considered when the Board receives the ward boundary review proposals.

3. THE REVIEW PROCESS

The review process involves a number of steps:

- Council resolves to undertake the review;
- Public submission period opens;
- Information provided to the community for discussion;
- Public submission period closes (after 6 weeks);
- Council considers all submissions and relevant factors, resulting in a decision;
- Council submits a report to the Local Government Advisory Board for its consideration;

and, if a change is proposed:

- The Board submits a recommendation to the Minister for Local Government (the Minister).

Any changes approved by the Minister where possible will be implemented for the next ordinary election.

4. FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED

When considering changes to wards and representation, Schedule 2.2 of the Act specifies the following factors that must be taken into account as part of the review process:

1. Community of interest;
2. Physical and topographic features;
3. Demographic trends;
4. Economic factors; and
5. Ratio of Councillors to Electors in the various wards.

The Local Government Advisory Board has provided the following interpretation for these factors of consideration:

4.1. Community of interest

The term community of interest has a number of elements. These include a sense of community identity and belonging, similarities in the characteristics of the residents of a community and similarities in the economic activities. It can also include dependence on the shared facilities in an area as reflected in catchment areas of local schools and sporting teams, or the circulation areas of local newspapers.

Neighbourhoods, suburbs and towns are important units in the physical, historical and social infrastructure and often generate a feeling of community and belonging.

4.2. Physical and topographic features

These may be natural or man made features that will vary from area to area. Water features such as rivers and catchment boundaries may be relevant considerations. Coastal plain and foothills regions, parks and reserves may be relevant as may other man made features such as railway lines and freeways.

4.3. Demographic trends

Several measurements of the characteristics of human populations, such as population size, and its distribution by age, sex, occupation and location provide important demographic information. Current and projected population characteristics will be relevant as well as similarities and differences between areas within the local government.

4.4. Economic factors

Economic factors can be broadly interpreted to include any factor that reflects the character of economic activities and resources in the area. This may include the industries that occur in a local government area (or the release of land for these) and the distribution of community assets and infrastructure such as road networks.

4.5. Ratio of Councillors to Electors in the various wards

It is expected that each local government will have similar ratios of electors to Councillors across the wards of its district. The Board has indicated in the past that they would only consider proposals that achieve a ratio of Councillors to electors in each ward that is +/- 10% of the average ratio.

5. KARRATHA WARD



Karratha	Population	Electors
Bayton	2482	1452
Bulgarra	3467	1475
Karratha	109	12
Pegs Creek	1952	905
Millars Well	2183	998
Nickol	4409	1893
Gap Ridge	1354	7
Karratha Industrial Estate	504	119
Mulataga	4	0
Stove Hill	26	3
Section 15b (confidential)	0	75
Total Population Figures	16490	
Total Elector Figures		6939
Number of Councillors	6	

5.1. Community of interest

Karratha is the largest of the wards in terms of population and as such takes on the role of primary service centre for the Shire as well as being the major regional service centre for the West Pilbara. Comprising of a town centre with a range of commercial, civic and community facilities, Karratha has several residential suburbs extending both east and west from the centre. Suburbs include Bulgarra, Pegs Creek, Millars Well, Nickol, Nickol West, Baynton, Baynton West and Tambrey. Further afield, Karratha Industrial Estate, to the south east of the town site, and the new Gap Ridge Industrial Estate, to the south west of the town site provide general and light industry land.

Karratha accommodates all of the major service industries for the Shire, such as the regional hospital, three medical centres, a TAFE, two high schools, six primary schools, sports teams and clubs. From a commercial perspective, Karratha has a mall containing over 60 stores, a shopping village, cafés, restaurants, fast food outlets, offices and showrooms. Karratha is also home to Federal and State Government Department regional offices.

5.2. *Physical and topographic features*

Karratha is located between the coastline and North West Coastal Highway to the south east of the Burrup Peninsula. Karratha Road and Madigan Road run north from the North West Coastal Highway to provide access to the settlement. Karratha can also be accessed from Dampier via the Dampier Highway, or via Millstream Road, which links into Karratha Road. The town centre of Karratha is located approximately 14 kilometres driving distance south east of Karratha Airport. Karratha extends to the coastal mangroves at its north east and borders to the Karratha Hills to the south.

5.3. *Demographic trends*

As indicated by the 2011 census, the Karratha Ward has the following demographics:

Population	Approximately 16,490 residents which is an increase of 44% on the 2006 census figures. The most significant growth has occurred in the suburbs of Nickol/Gap Ridge with a 28% increase in settlement and Baynton with a 10% increase. Karratha is expected to continue to grow in population numbers.
Age	Karratha is characterised by a young population. Approximately 50% of this population is aged between 25 and 49, with 70% aged between 18 and 59. It is worth noting that the Karratha Ward has the highest number of children under the age of 11 years in the Shire at 20%.
Nationality	Australian citizens make up 59% of the Karratha Ward population, with 5% of the population being from New Zealand and 4% from the United Kingdom.
Qualifications	Approximately 45% of the Karratha Ward have a tertiary qualification, the majority of which are vocational at 26%.
Employment	Almost all residents are employed (99%) with 77% in full time employment. The top six industry sectors of employment include Construction (21%); Mining (20%); Transport, postal & warehousing (6%), Retail (6%); Public administration & safety (6%) and Education & training (6%).
Accommodation	With approximately 75% of residents in a free standing house, the Karratha Ward is characterised by older dwellings, particularly in the suburbs of Millars Well, Pegs Creek and Bulgarra. One quarter of these dwellings were built before 1979 and half prior to 1987. Another 20% of residents live in medium density housing with 5% in caravans or cabins.
Income	40% of residents earn over \$1500 per week with 28% earning over \$2000 per week.

5.4. *Economic factors*

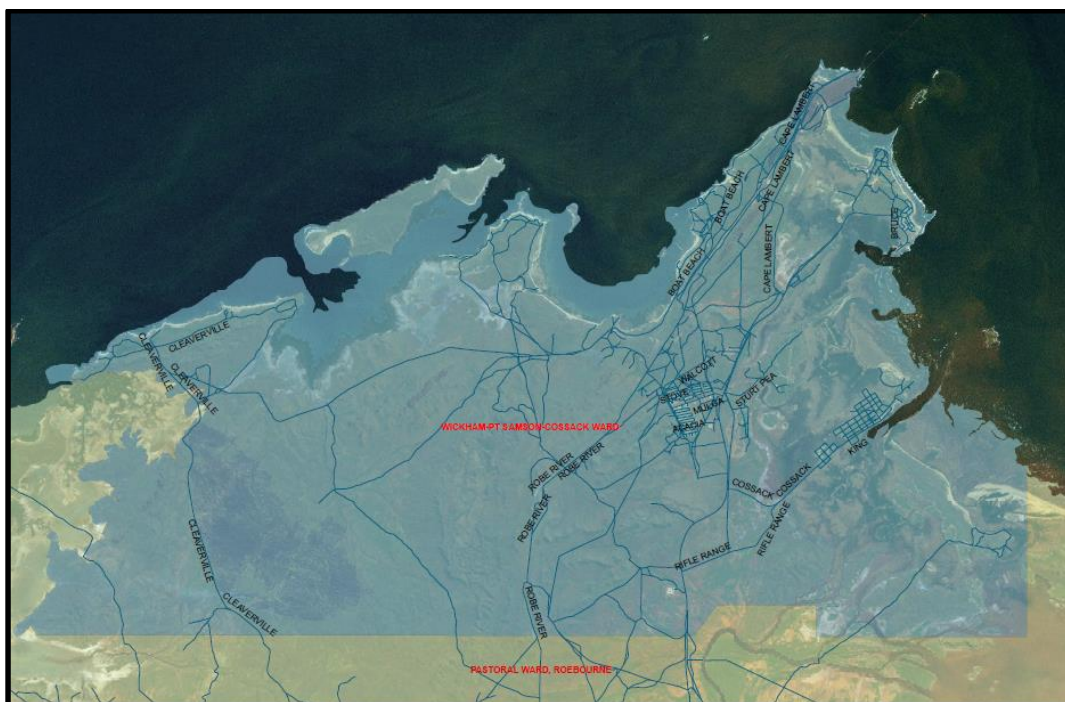
Karratha has a diverse employment base, predominately in support services to the mining and construction sectors. With the most significant amount of retail floor space in the Shire, it was estimated in 2009 that Karratha had a total of 36,473 square metres gross lettable area. Most retail and commercial land uses are generally contained within the town centre; while civic, community and recreational land uses are located throughout both the town centre and residential areas.

5.5. *Ratio of Councillors to Electors*

The current situation for the Karratha Ward is as follows:

Total Population	Electors	Councillors	% electors per ward population	Councillor /Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
16,490	6,939	6	42%	1 : 1157	-40%

6. WICKHAM / POINT SAMSON / COSSACK WARD



Wickham/Point Samson/Cossack	Population	Electors
Wickham	1668	760
Antonymyre	0	0
Cleaverville	12	0
Cossack	0	2
Point Samson	654	152
Dixon Island	0	0
Mount Anketell	0	0
Section 15b (confidential)	0	10
Total Population Figures	2334	
Total Elector Figures		924
Number of Councillors	2	

6.1. Community of interest

Wickham – Providing accommodation and facilities to the Rio Tinto workforce.

As a “Rio Town”, Wickham’s primary function is to provide accommodation and facilities that support Rio Tinto’s nearby iron ore processing and shipping operations at Cape Lambert. The settlement accommodates a portion of Rio Tinto’s FIFO operational workforce as well as providing permanent housing and services for the Cape Lambert workforce.

Offering a small shopping complex with a supermarket, liquor store, pharmacy, snack bar, newsagency and post office. Community facilities consist of a primary school, a health centre, a St John’s Ambulance Post, a police station, a sports oval and park.

Point Samson – A small coastal tourism and recreationally oriented settlement.

Point Samson is a popular tourist destination, offering quality fishing and swimming spots, along with a variety of accommodation options and restaurants for locals and tourists. It is also known for its 'coastal lifestyle' residential living, with a significant focus on the coastal environment and marine recreation.

Cossack - A historical town site with no resident population.

The settlement of Cossack was established in 1872 as the first port in the north west of Australia and the home of Western Australia's first pearling industry. Cossack does not have a residential population or the associated services to support a residential community. Declared a historical town in 1979, Cossack has a specialised strategic and functional role as a unique heritage and tourism destination.

6.2. Physical and topographic features

Wickham - By road, Wickham is located 8.4kms from Point Samson, 8.5kms from Cossack, 13 kilometres north of Roebourne and about 50 kilometres north east of Karratha. The settlement of Wickham is located inland from the coast. It is accessed via Point Samson-Roebourne Road, which connects to the North West Coastal Highway at Roebourne. The main road through the town centre is Wickham Drive.

Point Samson - By road, Point Samson is located 8.4kms from Wickham, 15kms from Cossack, approximately 18 kilometres north of Roebourne and 57 kilometres north east of Karratha at the eastern tip of the Dampier Archipelago. Point Samson is a coastal settlement that revolves around the operational and recreational maritime opportunities it affords. Point Samson can be accessed by travelling north on the Point-Samson-Roebourne Road and then taking Samson Point Road into the town centre.

Cossack - Cossack is located 8.5kms from Wickham, 15kms from Point Samson, approximately 52 kilometres driving distance east of Karratha and 14 kilometres north east of Roebourne. It is situated on the coast at the mouth of the Harding River, to the south of Point Samson and east of Wickham. Cossack is built around tidal flats and is accessed by a single causeway road to the Point Samson-Roebourne Road.

6.3. Demographic trends

As indicated by the 2011 census, the Wickham/Point Samson/Cossack Ward has the following demographics:

Population	Approximately 2,334 residents live in the Wickham/Point Samson Ward which is an increase of 1% from the 2006 census figures. Despite only a modest increase in population figures (a significant improvement from the 12% decrease seen in the 2001 census), growth and expansion of the Wickham Ward is well underway.
Age	The Wickham/Point Samson Ward consists of 47% of residents aged between 25 and 49, while 68% are aged between 18 and 59. There are also a large number of children under 11 years, totaling 19% of the ward population.
Nationality	Australians make up 60% of the residents in the Wickham/Point Samson Ward, with 5% from New Zealand and 3% from the UK.
Qualifications	Approximately 35% of the Wickham/Point Samson Ward have a tertiary qualification, the majority of which are vocational at 25%. It should be noted that the Wickham/Point Samson Ward has the highest number of unqualified residents.
Employment	Almost all residents are employed (99%) with 74% in full time employment. The top six industry sectors of employment include Mining (44%); Construction (15%); Health (6%), Accommodation (6%); Education & training (5%) and Public Administration & Safety (5%).
Accommodation	Characterised by minimal freehold land, home ownership in Wickham is exceptionally low (5%), with the majority of dwellings being owned by Rio Tinto. Approximately 50% of residents live in a free standing house and 35% in medium density accommodation (the highest figure in the Shire for medium density).
Income	The lowest incomes in the Shire can be seen in the Wickham/Point Samson Ward with only 35% of the residents earning over \$1500 per week yet this ward also records the highest number of residents without any income (7%).

6.4. Economic factors

Wickham - Wickham is a mainly residential settlement, with a dedicated transient worker accommodation complex. It has limited commercial and community facilities to service the immediate community. Commercially, Wickham has a gross lettable retail floor area of 2,600 m². Industries are predominately mining and construction. To the north lies Cape Lambert iron ore, rail and port operations. Significant expansion is underway at present at Cape Lambert with the prospect of a deep water port at Anketell also being proposed a short distance to the west of Cape Lambert.

Point Samson - Land uses are primarily either residential or tourism related, with only about 1,200 square metres of gross lettable retail floor area. Industries include tourism, hospitality and a commercial fishing industry that supplies seafood around all of Australia.

Cossack – Cossack town centre is zoned for tourism. The main attractions consist of a museum, art gallery and craft centre. The settlement contains very minimal traditional retail or commercial uses. Budget tourist accommodation is available and a café.

6.5. Ratio of Councillors to Electors

The current situation for the Wickham/Point Samson/Cossack Ward is as follows:

Total Population	Electors	Councillors	% electors per ward population	Councillor /Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
2,334	924	2	40%	1 : 462	44%

7.2. Physical and topographic features

Dampier is an island joined by a causeway to the mainland via Dampier Highway. Located 21 kilometres north-west of Karratha, on the north-west coastline of the Shire and south of the Burrup Peninsula. Dampier is geographically setup as the gateway to major industry and tourism opportunities located on the Burrup Peninsula (such as the Aboriginal rock art) and provides access to the 42 islands of the Dampier Archipelago. However, the settlement is physically constrained by both environmental factors of the landscape and surrounding industrial development.

7.3. Demographic trends

As indicated by the 2011 census, the Dampier Ward has the following demographics:

Population	Smallest in the Shire, the Dampier Ward has 1,366 residents, which is a increase of less than 1% from the 2006 census figures. As with Wickham the change in population is a significant improvement from the 18% decrease seen in the 2001 census.
Age	The Dampier Ward consists of 46% of residents aged between 25 and 49, with 68% aged between 18 and 59. While there is a large number of children under 11 years (17%) in the Dampier Ward, it is worth noting that Dampier has the highest number of teens aged between 12 and 17 years in the Shire at 9%.
Nationality	Australians make up 63% of the residents in the Dampier Ward, with 4% from New Zealand and 6% from the UK.
Qualifications	Approximately 42% of the Dampier Ward have a tertiary qualification, the majority of which are vocational at 27%. This makes Dampier the home of the highest level of vocationally qualified residents in the Shire.
Employment	Almost all residents are employed (99%) with 75% in full time employment. Dampier has the highest number of residents working in part time employment at 24%. The top five industry sectors of employment include Mining (34%); Construction (10%); Transport, postal & warehousing (14%); Education & training (7%); Accommodation & food services (7%).
Accommodation	Dampier has the highest number of residents in the Shire living in a free standing house at 68% and the highest number living in high density accommodation at 12%.
Income	The highest incomes in the Shire can be seen in the Dampier ward with 42% of the residents earning over \$1500 per week and 32% earning over \$2000 per week.

7.4. Economic factors

The Dampier town centre contains a small variety of commercial facilities, including a supermarket, a service station, a hotel, a pub and a café. The gross lettable retail floor area is approximately 2,084 square metres.

Dampier is surrounded by around 11,000 ha of Strategic Industry zoned land containing Dampier Port, Woodside's North West Shelf Venture gas refinement plant, Rio Tinto's Dampier Salt operations and Rio Tinto Iron Ore. The Dampier Port is the second highest volume port in Australia, acting as a major export port for the resources industry of the West Pilbara. It also operates King Bay Supply Base, which services the offshore oil and gas industry.

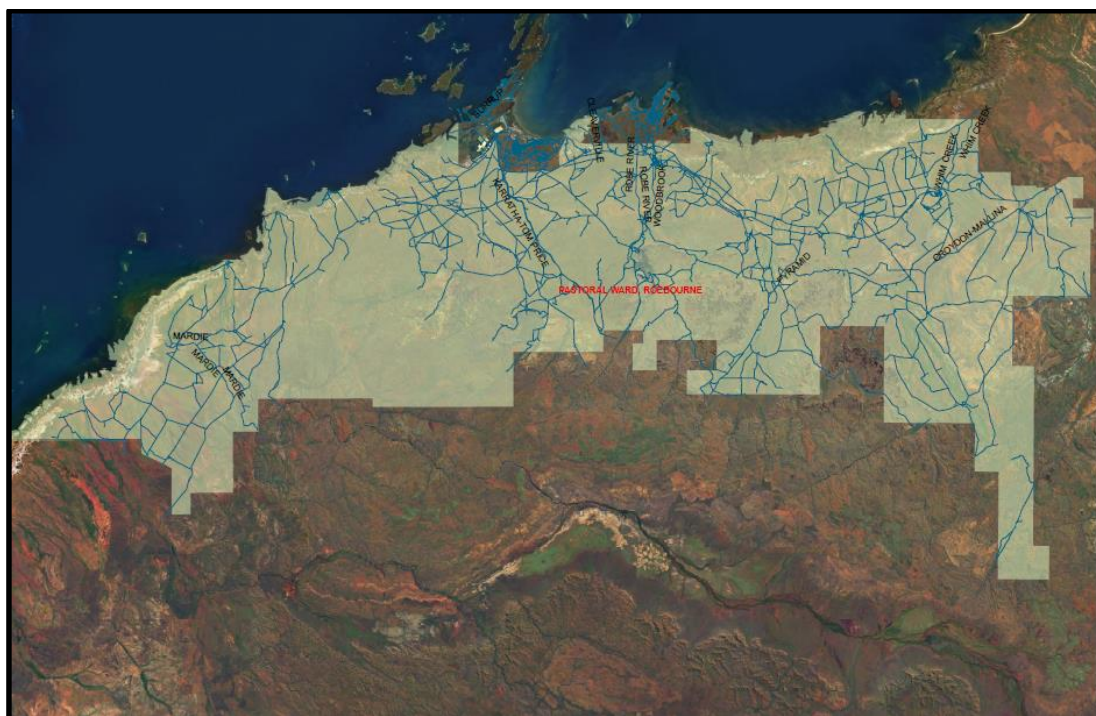
The oil and gas that is mined and refined in this area is significant to the Western Australian and National economy.

7.5. Ratio of Councillors to Electors

The current situation for the Dampier Ward is as follows:

Total Population	Electors	Councillors	% electors per ward population	Councillor /Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
1,366	653	2	48%	1 : 327	61%

8. ROEBOURNE / PASTORAL WARD



Roebourne	Population	Electors
Roebourne	1108	556
Balla Balla	0	2
Cooya Pooya	0	2
Sherlock	0	4
Whim Creek	10	1
Gnoorea	25	0
Maitland	80	7
Mardie	1579	4
Section 15b (confidential)	0	3
Total Population Figures	2802	
Total Elector Figures		579
Number of Councillors	1	

8.1. Community of interest

The Roebourne/Pastoral Ward is the largest ward in terms of land mass. This ward stretches from the western boundary of the Shire to the east and southern boundaries and includes the town of Roebourne and encompasses a number of pastoral leases which include operational stations such as Mardie Station, Sherlock Station, Pyramid Station, Mallina Station, Karratha Station, Mt Welcome Station and Warambie Station. It is the traditional home of the Ngarluma people and also accommodates Yindjibarndi and Banyjima people from surrounding stations.

Roebourne Township, is the oldest settlement in the Shire and the oldest active town between Geraldton and Darwin. It has the most significant population centre of Aboriginal people in the Shire and acts as a centre of Aboriginal culture and enterprise.

Within the Ward, there are isolated roadhouses at Fortescue and Whim Creek (temporarily closed). However, most of the amenities are located in the Roebourne Township and include a small store, petrol station, post office, medical centre, museum, public library, several churches, hospital, fire station and a police presence. It is also home to several of the local Aboriginal corporations' offices.

8.2. *Physical and topographic features*

Bounded by the Shire of Ashburton and Town of Port Hedland, the majority of the land is pastoral or unallocated crown land and provides a boundary to the Millstream National Park to the south.

The Roebourne Township is located on the banks of the Harding River approximately 40 kilometres by road east of Karratha and 13kms from Wickham. Roebourne is the only settlement within the Shire that is situated directly on the main transport route across the Shire, the North West Coastal Highway.

8.3. *Demographic trends*

As indicated by the 2011 census, the Roebourne Ward has the following demographics:

Population	The Roebourne Ward has a population of 2,802 residents which indicates a 124% increase on the 2006 figures. This makes it the fastest growing ward by population in the Shire.
Age	The Roebourne Ward has the highest figures in the Shire for those aged between 25 and 49 at 57% and 84% are aged between 18 and 59. They have the least number of children in the Shire at 3% but have and the highest number of residents aged over 60 years (8%).
Nationality	Roebourne has the highest number of Australians (65%) residing in the ward, with 8% from New Zealand and 4% from the UK.
Qualifications	Approximately 34% of the Roebourne Ward have a tertiary qualification, the majority of which are vocational at 22%.
Employment	Almost all residents are employed (97%) with the highest levels of full time employment in the Shire at 84%. Interestingly, the Roebourne Ward also has the highest level of those who are unemployed at 3%. The top five industry sectors of employment include Construction (40%); Mining (21%); Transport, postal & warehousing (7%); Accommodation & food services (5%); Manufacturing (4%).
Accommodation	The highest number of residents living in a caravan or cabin (45%) reside in the Roebourne Ward, with 30% live in a free standing house and 21% in medium density accommodation.
Income	Approximately 37% of residents in the Roebourne ward earn over \$1500 per week and 22% earn over \$2000 per week.

8.4. *Economic factors*

Being the only settlement located directly on the North West Coastal Highway route, Roebourne acts as a service centre to passing traffic. Despite this role, Roebourne presently has very limited commercial and retail offering, with approximately 1,350 square metres of gross lettable retail floor area. Land uses in Roebourne are primarily residential and community related with some emphasis on tourism opportunities beginning to develop. A large amount of land has also been reserved for conservation and recreation purposes.

8.5. *Ratio of Councillors to Electors*

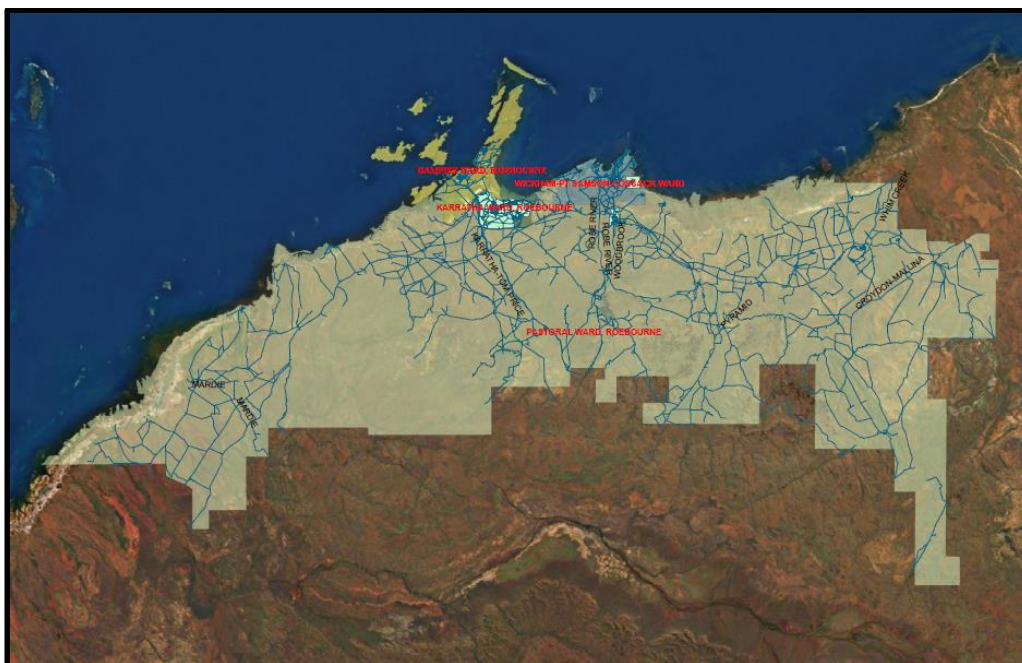
The current situation for the Roebourne Ward is as follows:

Total Population	Electors	Councillors	% electors per ward population	Councillor /Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
2,802	579	1	21%	1 : 579	30%

9. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

The following options are being presented for consideration. Members of the community may suggest other options during the consultation phase:

Option 1 Maintain the status quo – four wards and eleven Councillors



Ward	Total Population	Electors	Councillors	% electors per ward population	Councillor /Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
Karratha	16,490	6,939	6	42%	1 : 1157	-40%
Wickham/Point Samson	2,334	924	2	40%	1 : 462	44%
Dampier	1,366	653	2	48%	1 : 327	61%
Roebourne	2,802	579	1	21%	1 : 579	30%
TOTALS	22,992	9,095	11		AVE = 827	

Community of Interest

Under the current ward system, each ward has its own community of interest, in that each ward has its own identity and belonging in terms of employment, income levels, community issues, shared facilities and so on.

Physical & Topographical Features

Each ward is identified by significant town sites that are separated by major roads.

Demographic Trends

Population figures continue to increase in the Karratha, Wickham/Point Samson/Cossack and Roebourne wards. Projections indicate that these trends may continue into the foreseeable future.

Economic Factors

The economy is currently in good stead with low unemployment and high incomes. However the economy is heavily reliant on the mining and resource sector which may impact on the ward demographics as various contracts are issued and completed.

Ratio of Councillors and Electors

Under the current ward system, there are significant differences between the ratio of Councillors to Electors across the wards. With a deviation range of 101%, the status quo far exceeds the +/- 10% tolerance required by the Board.

2(c) Reduce representation in Dampier, Wickham/Point Samson and Karratha, making eight Councillors in total.

Ward	Total Population	Electors	Councillors	% electors per ward population	Councillor /Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
Karratha	16,490	6,939	5	42%	1 : 1388	-22%
Wickham/Point Samson	2,334	924	1	40%	1 : 924	19%
Dampier	1,366	653	1	48%	1 : 653	43%
Roebourne	2,802	579	1	21%	1 : 579	49%
TOTALS	22,992	9,095	8		AVE = 1137	

Community of Interest

Like the current ward system each ward has its own community of interest, in that each ward has its own identity and belonging in terms of employment, income levels, community issues, shared facilities and so on.

Physical & Topographical Features

Each ward is identified by significant town sites that are separated by major roads.

Demographic Trends

Population figures continue to increase in the Karratha, Wickham/Point Samson/Cossack and Roebourne wards. Projections indicate that these trends may continue into the foreseeable future which is likely to impact on the Councillor to Elector ratio in the future.

Economic Factors

The economies in Karratha, Wickham/Point Samson/Cossack and Dampier are fairly similar with low unemployment and high incomes. All three are heavily reliant on the mining and construction sectors which may impact on the ward demographics as various contracts are issued and completed.

Ratio of Councillors and Electors

This option provides several variations to reduce Councillor numbers in line with the Board's aim for local government reform.

Variation 2(a) reduces representation in the Dampier Ward to make a total of 10 Councillors. Under this variation, the deviation range between wards is 76% which is significantly more than the +/-10% guideline from the Board.

Variation 2(b) reduces representation in the Dampier and Wickham/Point Samson/Cossack Wards to make a total of 9 Councillors. This variation has the closest deviation range between wards at 57% however this is still more than the +/-10% guideline.

Variation 2(c) reduces representation in the Dampier, Wickham/Point Samson/Cossack and Karratha Wards to make a total of 8 Councillors. Under this variation, the deviation range between wards is 71% which is also significantly more than the +/-10% guideline.

Option 3 Retain eleven Councillors and amalgamate Roebourne/Pastoral Ward with the Wickham/Point Samson/Cossack Ward, increasing Councillors in Karratha to eight.



Ward	Total Population	Electors	Councillors	% electors per ward population	Councillor /Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
Karratha	16,490	6,939	8	42%	1 : 867	-5%
Wickham/Point Samson/Cossack/ Roebourne/Pastoral	5,136	1,503	2	29%	1 : 752	9%
Dampier	2,802	653	1	23%	1 : 653	21%
TOTALS	22,992	9,095	11		AVE = 827	

Community of Interest

The Roebourne Ward and the Wickham/Point Samson/Cossack Ward have significant differences in terms of community issues, demographics and available facilities. However, there are similarities in terms of the industries of employment and income levels.

Physical & Topographical Features

Each ward is identified by significant town sites that are separated by major roads.

Demographic Trends

Population figures continue to increase in the Karratha, Wickham/Point Samson/Cossack and Roebourne wards. Projections indicate that these trends may continue into the foreseeable future which is likely to impact this option in terms of the Councillor to Elector ratio.

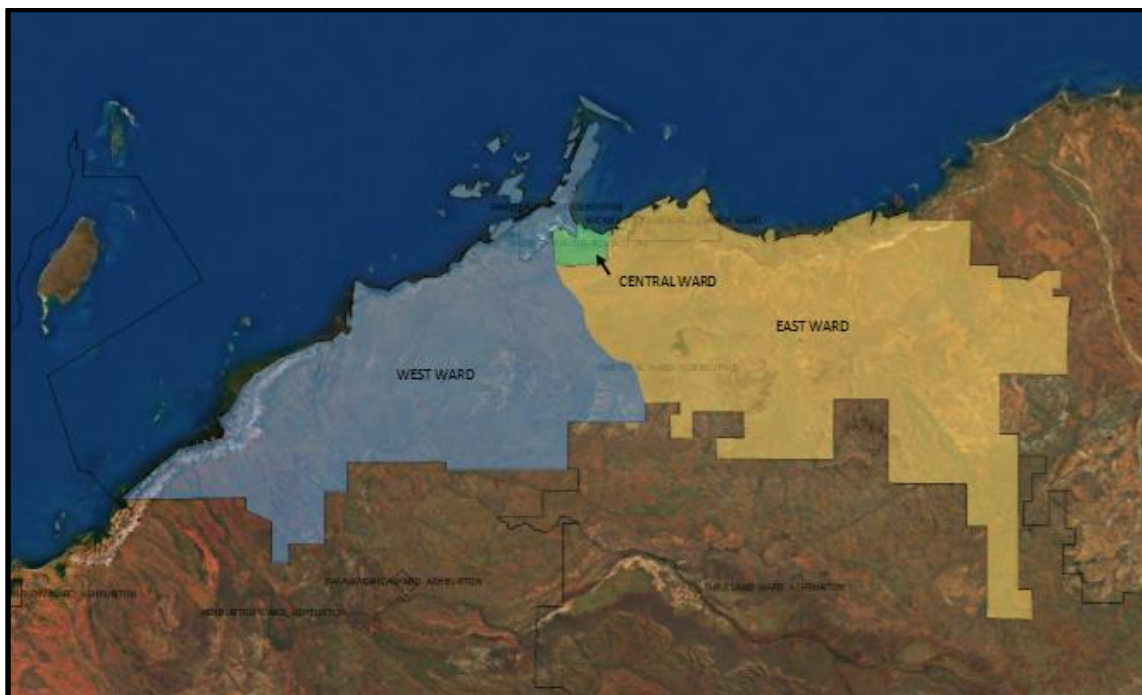
Economic Factors

By altering the current ward boundaries to this option, the economic factors would change significantly for the Wickham/Point Samson/Cossack ward. Income figures would increase with the majority of this merged population working full time in the mining and construction industries. This merger is also likely to see a stronger economic emphasis on the tourism and hospitality sectors.

Ratio of Councillors and Electors

This option offers a closer Councillor to Elector deviation ratio between the wards with a deviation range of 26%. However, it does not satisfy the Board's request for a reduction in representation numbers.

Option 4 Change ward boundaries, reducing to three (West, Central & East) and decrease Councillors to seven.



Ward	Total Population	Electors	Councillors	% electors per ward population	Councillor /Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
West	3,050	664	1	45%	1: 664	51%
Central	16,490	6,939	5	-15%	1:1388	-7%
East	3,452	1492	1	-24%	1: 1492	-15%
TOTALS	22,992	9,095	7		AVE = 1299	

Community of Interest

With this option communities of interest are somewhat merged by taking communities that are currently part of the Roebourne Ward and dividing them into the other 3 wards. This offers an opportunity for representatives in each ward to gain an understanding of the issues currently facing populations residing in the current Roebourne Ward.

Physical & Topographical Features

To fulfil this option, the ward boundaries would need to be completely redrawn.

Demographic Trends

Population figures continue to increase in the Karratha and Wickham/Point Samson/Cossack wards. Projections indicate that these trends may continue into the foreseeable future which is likely to make this option more viable than the others in terms of the Councillor to Elector ratio. Other demographics would start to see an even spread across the three proposed wards.

Economic Factors

By altering the current ward boundaries, the economic factors would not change significantly. All wards earn fairly high incomes which are heavily reliant on the mining and construction sectors. This option is likely to enable a greater awareness and understanding of other factors facing the Shire community, such as contingencies for reduced reliance on mining or identifying potential new growth industries.

Ratio of Councillors and Electors

The ratio between the wards has a range in deviation of 66%, this option does meet the requirement in regards to the Councillor to Elector ratio. It does however reduce elected representation.

Option 5 Reduce to two wards (Karratha and Rural) and decrease Councillors to eight



Ward	Total Population	Electors	Councillors	% electors per ward population	Councillor /Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
Karratha	16,490	6,939	6	42%	1:1156	-2%
Rural	6,502	2,156	2	33%	1:1078	5%
TOTALS	22,992	9,095	8		AVE = 1137	

Community of Interest

While there are some differences within the town centres captured by the Rural Ward, the proposed wards under this option share similarities in terms of employment, income levels, community issues, shared facilities, etc.

Physical & Topographical Features

To fulfil this option, the ward boundaries would need to be redrawn.

Demographic Trends

This option takes into account the increasing population figures for Karratha, a trend that is projected to continue into the foreseeable future. The merging of the Wickham/Point Samson/Cossack, Roebourne and Dampier wards will allow for a more even spread in elector numbers across the Shire, allowing for the slower but more variable population movement currently being seen in these locations.

Economic Factors

By altering the current ward boundaries, the economic factors would not change significantly. All wards earn fairly high incomes which are heavily reliant on the mining and construction sectors. Grouping the Wickham/Point Samson/Cossack, Roebourne and Dampier wards into a Rural Ward could aid the Shire in growing new potential industry sectors such as tourism and hospitality, while separating the very different requirements needed to develop the Karratha Ward into the 'City of the North'.

Ratio of Councillors and Electors

Offering the closest ratio between the wards with a range in deviation of 7%. This option meets the Board's desired Councillor to Elector ratio and also addresses the reduction in elected representation.

Option 6 No wards



Ward	Total Population	Electors	Councillors	Councillor /Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
Shire of Roebourne	22,992	9,095	11	1 : 9,095	N/A

Community of Interest

Communities of interest are not reflected by the local government boundary.

Physical & Topographical Features

The district boundary does not allow any distinction in physical or topographic features.

Demographic Trends

Current population figures across the whole Shire continue to increase and ABS projections suggest that this will continue. Therefore, under a no ward system the boundary would follow demographic trends.

Economic Factors

The district boundary does not reflect the areas of economic activity.

Ratio of Councillors and Electors

This option provides balanced representation across the Shire, however it does not satisfy the requirement to reduce representation numbers.

10. WHICH OPTION IS BEST?

When determining which option is the best for Council, the Board suggests that each prescribed factor is rated against each option.

Option	Community of Interest	Physical & topographic features	Demographic trends	Economic factors	Councillor /Elector Ratio
1	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
3	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
4	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
5	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
6	No	No	Yes	No	Yes

Option 1 Maintain the status quo, four wards and eleven Councillors

Option 2 Maintain the current wards but reduce representation

- (a) Reduce representation in Dampier, ten Councillors in total.
- (b) Reduce representation in Dampier and Wickham, nine Councillors in total.
- (c) Reduce representation in Dampier, Wickham & Karratha, eight Councillors in total.

Option 3 Retain eleven Councillors and amalgamate Roebourne/Pastoral Ward with the Wickham/Point Samson/Cossack Ward, increasing Councillors in Karratha to eight.

Option 4 Change ward boundaries, reducing to three (West, Central & East) and decrease Councillors to seven.

Option 5 Reduce to two wards (Karratha and Rural) and decrease Councillors to eight

Option 6 No wards