



REVIEW OF REPRESENTATION

(Number of Shire of Kojonup Council representatives)

INFORMATION SHEET

Following the State Government's announcement on 3 July 2022, the Shire of Kojonup is required to reduce its local government councillor representation from 8 to either 5, 6 or 7 by the 2023 or 2025 ordinary elections.

As part of the Shire of Kojonup's determination as to the number of councillor representatives it will have in the foreseeable future, Council is seeking the Kojonup community's views on the number of Council representatives the community would like to have (5, 6 or 7) and whether councillor representation should reduce by the 2023 or 2025 ordinary elections, in line with State Government reduction requirements.

Current representative ratios (8 councillors):

Councillor/Population ratio is approximately 1:237 (based on ABS Census 2021 data)

Councillor/over 18 (voting age) ratio is approximately 1:187 (based on ABS Census 2021 data)

Councillor/elector ratio is approximately 1:161 (2021 Ordinary Election electors' roll data)

Future representative ratio options:

The following approximate ratios apply for 5, 6 or 7 Council representatives based on the above population/over 18/elector figures:

5 representatives - 1:380/1:300/1:258

6 representatives - 1:316/1:250/1:215

7 representatives - 1:271/1:214/1:184

Factors to be considered:

- Advantages and disadvantages of lower/higher representation numbers
- Cost of elected members
- Effectiveness and efficiency of Council meetings

Advantages of a larger reduction of numbers (smaller number of councillors):

- The decision making process may be more effective and efficient if the number of elected members is less; it may be more timely to ascertain the views of a fewer number of people and decision making may be easier. There could be more scope for team spirit and cooperation amongst a smaller number of people.
- It is estimated the cost of maintaining elected members is likely to be reduced by approximately \$20,000 per member reduction.
- Consultation with the community can be achieved through a variety of means in addition to individuals and groups contacting their local elected members.
- A smaller number of elected members may result in an increased commitment and interest and participation in Council's affairs by elected members generally.
- Fewer elected members are more readily identifiable to the community.
- Fewer positions on Council may lead to greater interest in elections with contested elections and those elected obtaining a greater level of support from the community.
- The Department of Local Government advises of a State wide trend in reductions of elected member numbers and many local governments have found that fewer elected members has improved their decision making process.

Disadvantages of a larger reduction of numbers (smaller number of councillors):

- A smaller number of elected members may result in an increased workload for incumbent members and may reduce efficiency and effectiveness.
- There is the potential for dominance in the Council by a particular interest group.
- A reduction in the number of elected members may limit the diversity of interests around the Council table.
- Opportunities for community participation in Council's affairs may be reduced if there are fewer elected members for the community to contact.

If you wish to make a submission (in writing or on the following form) to the Shire of Kojonup, on this matter, please choose between the following options and submit to the Shire by 4.30pm, Monday, 12 December 2022 by one of the following methods:

Post/over the counter – Shire of Kojonup, 93 Albany Highway, KOJONUP WA 6395

Email – council@kojonup.wa.gov.au

Forms are also available over the counter at the Shire's Administration Office and can be emailed to you.



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Please circle your preferred option:

- a) Reduce the number of councillors to 7
- b) Reduce the number of councillors to 6
- c) Reduce the number of councillors to 5

Reduce the number of councillors by the:

- a) 2023 Ordinary Election
- b) 2025 Ordinary Election

Please provide your own comments if you wish:

I am a resident of Kojonup (please tick to confirm and include your name and signature below to validate your submission)

Name

Signature

Thank you for your involvement in this review. Council welcomes your comments on any matters that may assist it to make informed and responsible decisions for the benefit of the people of the Shire of Kojonup.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Review of Representation

(Number of Council Representatives)

On 3 July 2022 the State Government announced a package of local government reforms including a reduction in the number of Council representatives for many local governments, based on population. The Shire of Kojonup is required to reduce representation from 8 to either 5, 6 or 7 Councillors and to conduct a Representation Review. Reducing the number of elected representatives will not limit the matters that members of the community can raise.

**Public submissions are invited as to the number of Council representatives
the Community of Kojonup would prefer
(either 5, 6, or 7)**

An information sheet* is available detailing the different representative to electors and population ratios for 5, 6 or 7 councillors for the Shire of Kojonup. The information sheet also outlines factors for consideration and perceived advantages and disadvantages of having a lower or higher number of councillors.

Public submissions, in writing, are invited or forms are available to be completed – either method of submission needs to be received by the Shire of Kojonup by 4.30pm, Monday, 12 December 2022 and can be delivered by:

- **Post or over the counter:** 93 Albany Highway, KOJONUP WA 6395 or
- **email:** council@kojonup.wa.gov.au

**For a copy of the information sheet, which includes the form, please contact Judy Stewart, Senior Administration Officer – sao@kojonup.wa.gov.au, telephone 0898 312400, visit the Shire website www.kojonup.wa.gov.au, or call into the Shire Administration office at the above address.*