

ELECTOR REPRESENTATION REVIEW

REPRESENTATION REPORT

SECTION 12(5) – 12(7) of the *Local Government Act 1999*





REPRESENTATION REPORT

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1. Introduction

Section 12(3) of the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Act) indicates that Council must undertake a “representation review” to determine whether the community would benefit from an alteration to Council’s composition and/or ward structure.

Section 12(4) of the Act states: “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”.

Representation reviews are generally undertaken every eight (8) years, and the Minister for Local Government has specified that the City of Playford (Council) is required to undertake and complete a review during the period April 2024 – April 2025. The review outcome must be published in the Government Gazette by the 1st January 2026, and any changes will come into effect at the next Local Government elections in November 2026.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Sections 12(5) and 12(6) of the Act. It sets out the elector representation proposal that Council believes should be carried into effect at the next Local Government elections in November 2026; provides information pertaining to matters relevant to the composition and structure of Council; and presents an analysis of how Council’s proposal relates to the relevant provisions and principles prescribed under Sections 26(1)(c) and 33 of the Act.

The key issues that need to be addressed during the review include:

- the number of elected members of Council that are required to provide fair and adequate representation to the community;
- the division of the Council area into wards, or alternatively the abolition of wards; and
- if applicable, the preferred future ward structure, the level of ward representation and the name/title of any proposed future wards.

Whilst the proposal presented herein reflects the current position of the Council, no final decision will be made in respect to Council’s future composition and/or structure until consideration has been given to any and all public submissions which may be received during the prescribed public consultation stage.

2. Background

The City of Playford covers approximately 344.9 km²; and had an estimated resident population of 107,069 as at the 30th June 2023. According to Electoral Commission SA, there were 71,441 eligible electors within the Council area as at the 24th April 2024, this equating to an elector ratio (i.e. the average number of electors represented by a councillor) of 1:4,763.

The Council area is currently divided into five (5) wards, as described hereinafter and depicted on Map 1. Each existing ward is represented by three (3) ward councillors (i.e. a total of fifteen (15) ward councillors), and the Mayor is the sixteenth and principal member of Council.

Ward 1: Comprising the suburbs of Andrews Farm, Angle Vale, Buckland Park, Eyre, MacDonald Park, Penfield, Penfield Gardens, Riverlea Park, Smithfield Plains, Virginia and Waterloo Corner, and part of the suburb of Edinburgh North.

Ward 2: Comprising the suburbs of Blakeview, Munno Para, Munno Para Downs, Munno Para West and Smithfield; and part of the suburb of Hillier.

Ward 3: Comprising the suburbs of Bibaringa, Evanston Park, Gould Creek, Hillbank, Humbug Scrub, One Tree Hill, Sampson Flat, Uleybury and Yattalunga; and part of the suburb of Craigmore.

Ward 4: Comprising the suburbs of Davoren Park, Elizabeth, Elizabeth North, Elizabeth South, Elizabeth Vale; and part of the suburb of Edinburgh North.

Ward 5: Comprising the suburbs of Elizabeth Downs, Elizabeth Park, Elizabeth East and Elizabeth Grove; and part of the suburb of Craigmore.

The current composition and ward structure of Council was adopted at the completion of the previous representation review which was undertaken in 2016/2017. This arrangement formally came into effect at the Local Government elections in November 2018.

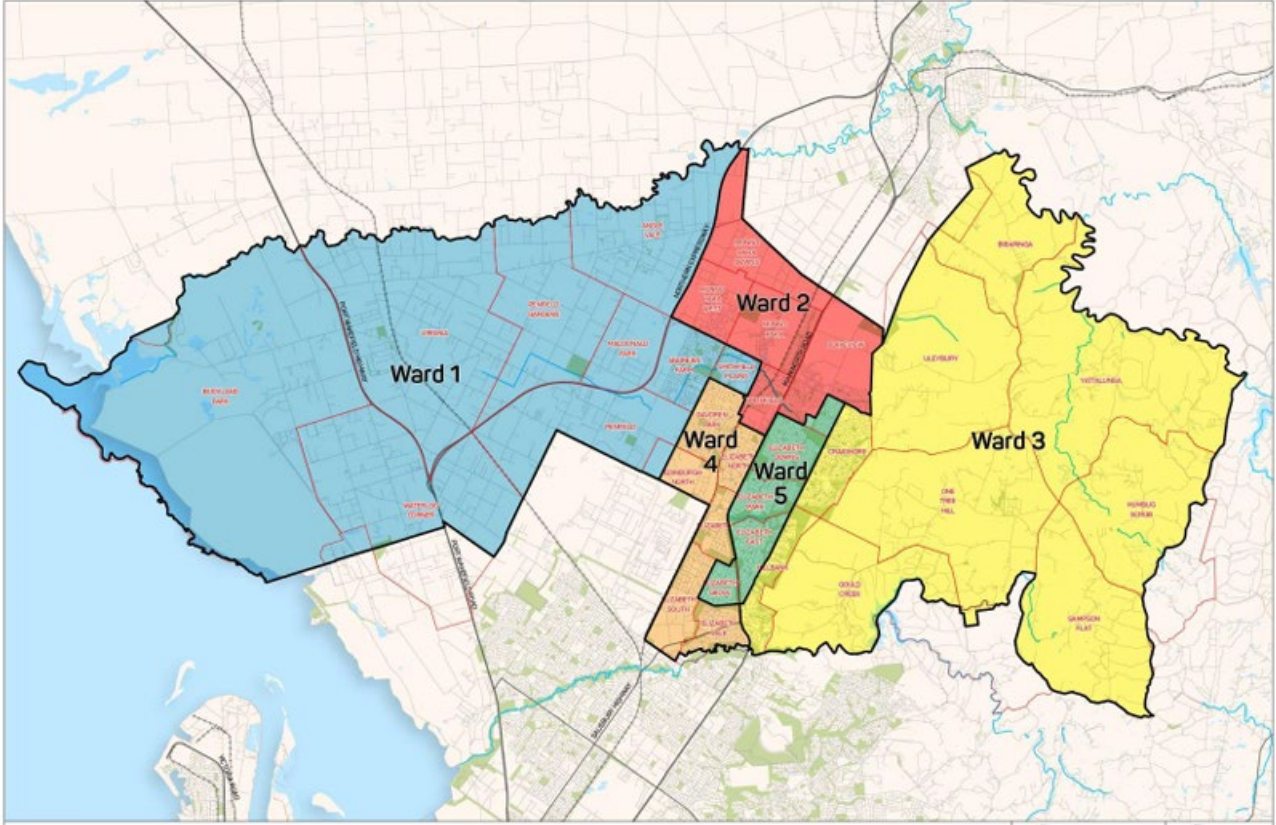
The distribution of electors between the existing wards is detailed in Table 1.

Table 1: Elector distribution between existing wards.

Ward	Crs	HOA Roll	Council Roll	Electors	Ratio	% Variance
Ward 1	3	16,240	12	16,252	1:5,417	+15.53
Ward 2	3	16,988	4	16,992	1:5,664	+20.80
Ward 3	3	11,959	2	11,961	1:3,987	-14.97
Ward 4	3	12,254	11	12,265	1:4,088	-12.81
Ward 5	3	12,852	12	12,864	1:4,288	- 8.55
Total	15	70,293	41	70,334		
Average					1:4,689	

Source: Electoral Commission SA, 15th January 2024

Map 1: Current ward structure



The existing ward structure cannot be retained as the elector ratios applicable to ward numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4 all breach the 10% quota limit specified under Section 33(2) of the Act (refer 5.6 Quota, page 15). In addition, the existing composition of Council is at odds with the members cap now specified under Section 11A of the Act (refer 4.4 Number of Councillors, page 8).

Council commenced its review on the 12th March 2024 at which time the elected members were provided with general information pertaining to the review and the review process. This was followed by two further briefings/workshops which were held on the 21st May 2024 and the 11th June 2024. In addition, Council has considered a Discussion Paper and generally addressed:

- the member cap specified under Section 11A of the Act;
- the continued division of the Council area into wards, as opposed to the abolition of wards;
- the number of elected members required to provide adequate and fair representation;
- the provisions of Sections 26(1)(c) and 33 of the Act, in particular the requirement to avoid over-representation in comparison with councils of a similar size and type; and
- the anticipated population growth over coming years, and the likely impacts thereof upon elector representation across the Council area.

At its meeting on the 23rd July 2024, Council identified the preferred (in principle) option in respect to its future composition and ward structure.

3. Proposal

Having duly considered all relevant provisions of the Act and considerable information pertaining to the primary issues pertaining to the review, Council proposes the following in respect to its future composition and structure.

- The principal member of Council will be a Mayor elected by the community (as per the requirements of Section 51 of the Act).
- The future elected body of Council will comprise the Mayor and twelve (12) ward councillors.
- The Council area will be divided into four (4) wards, as depicted in Map 2 and described hereinafter, with each ward being represented by three (3) councillors.

Ward 1: Comprising the suburbs of Angle Vale, Buckland Park, Eyre, Hillier, MacDonald Park, Munno Para West, Penfield, Penfield Gardens, Riverlea Park, Virginia and Waterloo Corner; part of the suburb of Andrews Farm to the west of President Avenue; and part of the suburb of Munno Para Downs to the west of Stebonheath Road.

Ward 2: Comprising the suburbs of Munno Para, Smithfield and Smithfield Plains; part of the suburb of Andrews Farm to the east of President Avenue; part of the suburb of Blakeview to the east of Bentley Road; part of the suburb of Davoren Park to the north of Petherton Road and Meadows Lane; and part of the suburb of Munno Para Downs to the east of Stebonheath Road.

Ward 3: Comprising the suburbs of Edinburgh North, Elizabeth, Elizabeth East, Elizabeth Grove, Elizabeth North, Elizabeth Park, Elizabeth South and Elizabeth Vale; part of the suburb of Davoren Park to the south of Petherton Road and Meadows Lane; and part of the suburb of Elizabeth Downs to the south of Midway Road.

Ward 4: Comprising the suburbs of Bibaringa, Craigmore, Evanston Park, Gould Creek, Hillbank, Humbug Scrub, One Tree Hill, Sampson Flat, Uleybury and Yattalunga; part of the suburb of Blakeview to the west of Bentley Road; and part of the suburb of Elizabeth Downs to the north of Midway Road.

- The proposed wards will be identified as Wards 1, 2, 3 and 4.

The distribution of electors between the proposed wards is detailed in Table 2, and the reasons for Council's "in principle" decisions, together with an analysis of compliance with the relevant provisions and requirements of the Act, are provided hereinafter.

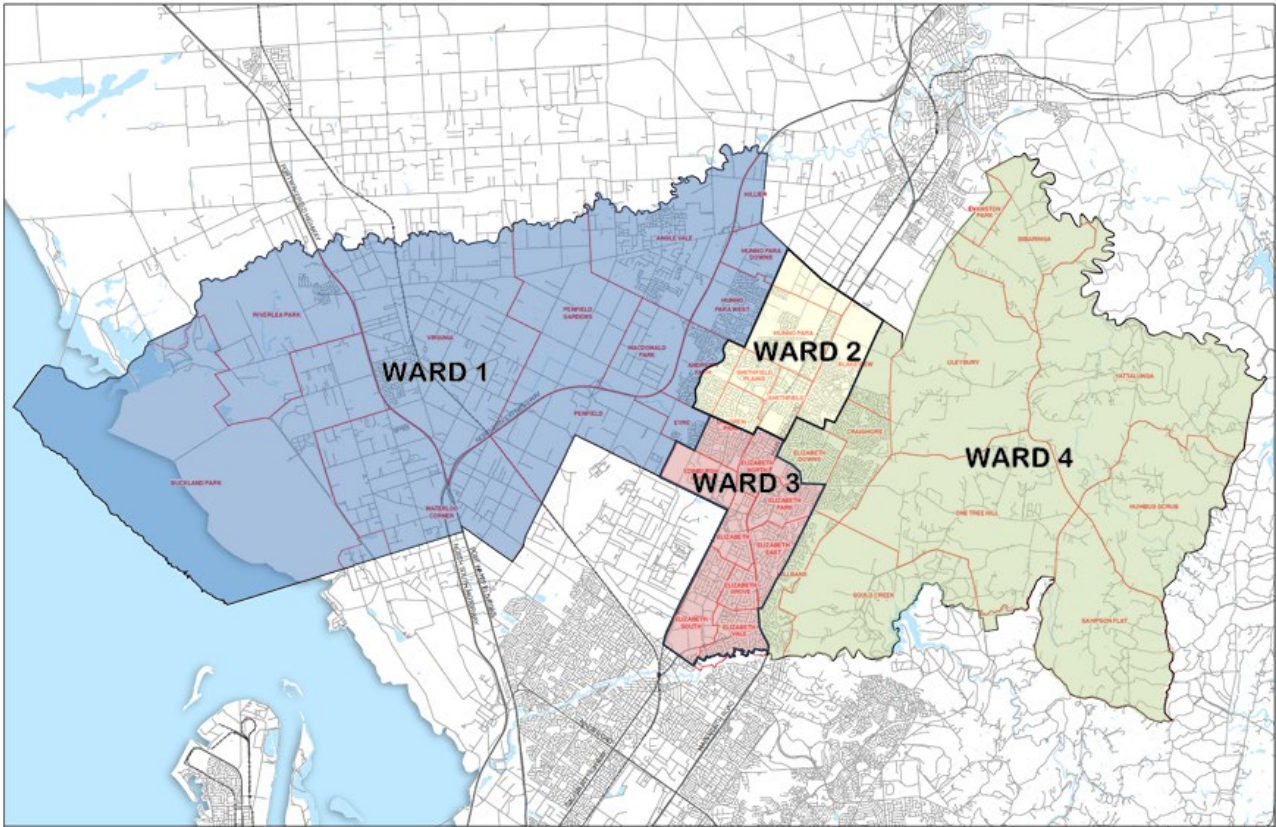
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Table 2: Elector distribution between proposed wards.

Ward	Crs	HOA Roll	Council Roll	Electors	Ratio	% Variance
Ward 1	3	16,918	10	16,928	1:5,643	- 3.73
Ward 2	3	17,900	7	17,907	1:5,969	+1.84
Ward 3	3	17,345	22	17,367	1:5,789	-1.23
Ward 4	3	18,130	2	18,132	1:6,044	+3.12
Total	12	70,293	41	70,334		
Average					1:5,861	

Source: Electoral Commission SA, 15th January 2024

Map 2: Proposed ward structure



4. Proposal Rationale

4.1 Composition

Section 51 of the Act stipulates that the principal member of Council must be appointed (by the Governor under circumstances prescribed under Section 10 of the Act) or elected by the electors of the Council area as a representative of the area as a whole; and is to be called mayor. The Act no longer affords any alternative.

Section 52(1) of the Act specifies that all members of Council, other than the principal member, shall have the title of councillor.

Section 52(2) states that a councillor will (depending on how the council is constituted):

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

4.2 Wards/No Wards

The Council area has been divided into wards since the City of Playford was proclaimed in 1997.

Currently two (2) of the nineteen (19) metropolitan councils (i.e. the Towns of Gawler and Walkerville) have no wards, as do thirty-five (35) of the forty-nine (49) regional councils.

Council acknowledges that the “no wards” alternative affords electors the opportunity to vote for all of the vacant positions on Council; automatically absorbs fluctuations in elector numbers; allows for the most supported candidates from across the Council area to be elected; and supposedly enables the elected members to be free of parochial ward attitudes. Notwithstanding this, Council is concerned that the “no wards” alternative:

- does not guarantee direct representation of all communities within the Council area;
- may make it easier for single interest candidates and/or groups to gain support (than does the existing ward based system);
- has the potential to make the task and expense of contesting "council-wide" elections difficult and excessive; and
- has the potential to increase the cost of conducting elections and supplementary elections, given that under the “no wards” structure all contested elections must be conducted on a council-wide basis.

On the other hand, Council believes that a ward structure:

- guarantees a level of direct representation of all areas and communities within the Council area;
- ensures local interests and/or issues are not overlooked in favour of the bigger “city-wide” picture; and
- provides recognisable lines of communication with Council through the ward councillors.

It is also considered that ward councillors can have empathy for, and an affiliation with, the constituents and communities within their ward; and ward councillors deliberate and make decisions on the basis of achieving the best outcome for their ward and the whole of the Council area (as would be the role of an area councillor under the no ward alternative). Further, the community knows and accepts the division of the Council area into wards, and the structure and level of representation that it provides. As such, the retention of a ward structure will likely be perceived as an indication of stability within Council and Local Government in general.

Given the aforementioned, Council supports the on-going division of the Council area into wards.

4.3 Proposed Ward Structure

During the course of the review Council has considered numerous ward structures based on ten, eleven and twelve councillors.

Council favours the proposed ward structure because it:

- is relatively simple in configuration;
- is based on the maximum number of councillors prescribed under Section 11A of the Act;
- is reasonably well balanced in terms of the distribution of electors between the proposed wards, and the resulting ward elector ratios;
- exhibits ward elector ratios which lay well within the specified quota tolerance limits (and are therefore capable of sustaining reasonable future fluctuations in elector numbers);
- has a consistent level of representation (i.e. three councillors) across all of the proposed wards which should provide the electors/residents located therein with fervent and direct representation;
- will provide sufficient opportunities for aspiring candidates to Council (and the individual wards);
- will provide a level of ward representation which will ensure continued representation within a ward under circumstances whereby a ward councillor is absent or unavailable;
- should maintain reasonable and manageable workloads for the ward councillors;
- will provide the same level of ward representation to that which has been provided to, and experienced by, the local community over the past six years; and
- should provide an environment wherein closer relationships between ward councillors and their constituents can be fostered, and ward councillors can be more familiar with the issues and/or concerns within their ward.

Further, the proposed ward structure is not dissimilar to the existing ward structure in that it incorporates large wards (in area) to the east and west which generally incorporate the existing rural areas and the rapidly developing new residential precincts, as well as centrally located wards which include the long-established urban areas.

Given all of the aforementioned, Council's preference to introduce a new, four ward structure is considered to be rational and justifiable.

4.4 Number of Councillors

Council has comprised the Mayor and fifteen (15) ward councillors since the Local Government election in 2018.

Section 11A of the Act specifies that a council must not be comprised of more than thirteen (13) members, including the Mayor.

The Council proposal to reduce the number of elected members to thirteen (13), being the Mayor and twelve (12) ward councillors, is in keeping with the requirement and intent of the Act.

When determining its preferred future composition, Council also gave consideration to the following.

- Section 12(6)(a)(i) of the Act specifically required Council to examine the question of whether the number of members should be reduced. The Act is quiet on the issue of a potential increase in the number of elected members.
- Whilst ward councillors are elected to provide representation of (and assistance to) the constituents within their wards, they also act in the best interest of the whole community within the Council area. This includes approximately 46,000 or more residents who are not enrolled to vote but have the same day-to-day concerns and issues which confront the eligible electors throughout the Council area. As the demands and needs of the whole of the local community directly impact upon the workloads of the elected members, the greater the number of elected members the greater the lines of communication between Council and the greater the likelihood that the elected members will be capable of providing an adequate service to the local community.
- It is anticipated that the population of the City of Playford will grow significantly in the foreseeable future, especially in the western and northern parts of the Council area (refer 5.2 Population and Demographic Trends, page 11). Whilst it is difficult to quantify the future population growth with any certainty at this time, the anticipated increase in the population of the Council area over the next eight years (i.e. the next scheduled representation review) will undoubtedly be significant, and will result in greater elector numbers, higher elector ratios and greater demands being placed upon the elected members (both individually and as a collective body).
- There must be sufficient elected members to manage the day-to-day affairs of Council; provide adequate and readily available lines of communication between Council and the community; and ensure that the potential for diversity in the elected member's skill sets, experience and backgrounds is maintained.



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Council believes that it is important to reach a balance between adhering to the intent of the Act (in regard to the future number of elected members) and maintaining quality and level of representation similar to that which has long been experienced and expected by the local community.

Ultimately, Council has opted for the maximum number of elected members prescribed under the Act. It believes that twelve (12) ward councillors and the Mayor will be required to provide fair and adequate representation of a rapidly increasing local community, and to afford reasonable opportunities for potential future candidates to seek election to Council.

5. Legislative Requirements

The provisions of Sections 26(1)(c) and 33 of the Act require Council to consider, as far as practicable, the following when developing a proposal that relates to its composition and structure.

Section 26(1)(c) requires that, when considering a reform proposal, Council should have regard to a list of principles, the most relevant being the following:

- Proposed changes should, wherever practicable, benefit ratepayers.
- A council should reflect communities of interest of an economic, recreational, social, regional or other kind, and be consistent with community structures, values, expectations and aspirations.
- Residents should receive adequate and fair representation within the local government system, while over-representation in comparison with councils of a similar size and type should be avoided (at least in the longer term).

Section 33(1) requires that, in the formulation of a proposal that relates to the boundaries of a ward or wards, the review must also take into account, as far as practicable:

- the desirability of reflecting communities of interest of an economic, social, regional or other kind;
- the population of the area, and of each ward affected or envisaged by the proposal;
- the topography of the area, and of each ward affected or envisaged by the proposal;
- the feasibility of communication between electors affected by the proposal and their elected representatives;
- the nature of substantial demographic changes that may occur in the foreseeable future; and
- the need to ensure adequate and fair representation while at the same time avoiding over-representation in comparison to other councils of a similar size and type (at least in the longer term).

Section 33(2) of the Act requires that a proposal which relates to the formation or alteration of wards of a council must observe the principle that the number of electors represented by a councillor must not, as at the relevant date (assuming that the proposal was in operation), vary from the ward quota by more than 10 per cent.

Finally, as indicated earlier, Section 11A of the Act specifies that a council must not be comprised of more than thirteen (13) members, including the Mayor unless it has received an “exemption certificate” from the Electoral Commissioner.

Council’s comments, as they relate to the relevant provisions of Sections 26 and 33 of the Act, are as follows.

5.1 Communities of Interest

The Act speaks of the desirability of reflecting communities of interest of an economic, social, regional or other kind.

“Communities of interest” have previously been defined “as aspects of the physical, economic and social systems which are central to the interactions of communities in their living environment”, and are generally identified by considering factors relevant thereto, including neighbourhood communities; history and heritage communities; sporting facilities; community support services; recreation and leisure communities; retail and shopping centres; work communities; industrial and economic development clusters; and environmental and geographic interests.

The Council area covers approximately 344.9 km² and incorporates thirty-seven suburbs (or part suburbs). Council is keen to ensure that, where possible, identified “communities of interest” are maintained in their entirety within the bounds of a ward, taking into account the features of the landscape; the location of, and connection between, the various communities; and the distribution of the electors. In order to achieve this, Council sought (where possible) to maintain entire suburbs within a ward. However, to accomplish an equitable distribution of elector numbers between the proposed wards and maintain a consistent level of representation in each of the proposed wards, five suburbs (and the communities therein) have had to be divided between the proposed wards.

Whilst the community will have to adapt to the physical configuration of the proposed new ward structure and the division of some suburbs, the level of representation within each of the proposed wards will be maintained at three (3) councillors, as has been the case in all of the existing wards since November 2018.

5.2 Population and Demographic Trends

The City of Playford is expected to continue to experience substantial residential development (and therefore population growth) over the next twenty-five years or so, primarily in the western and northern parts of the Council area. Some estimates suggest an increase in the order of 25,000 additional residents over the next seven (7) years.

The following information provides some insight into the demographic trends that have occurred over recent years, and the extent of the anticipated future population increase.

Since the completion of the last elector representation review in March 2017, elector numbers have increased by 13,594 or 23.5%. Table 3 provides details of the growth in elector numbers in each of the existing wards over the period March 2017 – April 2024.

Table 3: Elector numbers per ward, March 2017 – April 2024

Ward	Electors 2017	Electors 2024	Variation	% Variation
Ward 1	11,469	16,556	5,087	+44.35
Ward 2	12,120	17,289	5,169	+42.65
Ward 3	11,438	12,149	711	+ 6.22
Ward 4	11,020	12,422	1,402	+12.72
Ward 5	11,899	13,025	1,225	+10.38
Total	57,847	71,441	13,594	+23.35

Source: Electoral Commission SA, 24th April 2024

Population projections prepared by the **Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (2020)** indicate that the population of the City of Playford is anticipated to increase by 39,531 (i.e. 90,549 to 130,080) 43.98% during the period 2016 – 2036.

The **Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (Local Area (SA2 and LGA), Population Projections for South Australia, 2021 – 2041**, published March 2024) indicates that the population of the Council area is anticipated (medium series) to increase by 65,778 people or 65.4% (i.e. 100,556 to 166,334) during the period 2021 – 2041.

Population projections prepared by **.id (Informed Decisions)** in December 2023 suggest that the population of the Council area is expected to increase by 15,571 people or 15.8% (100,635 – 116,196) during the period 2021 – 2026, and a further 17,010 people or 14.6% (116,196 – 133,206) during the period 2026 – 2031.

Data provided by the **Australian Bureau of Statistics (refer 3218.0 Regional Population Growth, Australia)** indicates that the estimated population of the City of Playford increased every year during the period 2001 – 2022 (i.e. from 68,692 to 104,161), which equates to a total increase of 35,469 or 51.6%.

Australian Bureau of Statistics "**Quick Stats**" indicate that the estimated population of the Council area increased by 32,432 people (48.6%) during the period 2001 - 2021 (i.e. 66,758 to 99,190), including 9,818 people (11.0%) during the period 2016 - 2021 (i.e. 89,372 to 99,190).

According to **.id community (<http://profile.id.com.au/playford>)**, residential building approvals relating to properties within the Council area have been increasing significantly over recent years and are now trending towards 2,000 dwelling approvals per annum.

Initial consultation with Council planning staff identified potential significant future residential growth opportunities which may impact upon future population/elector numbers over the next fifteen years. These include (but are not limited to) the following estimates.

- Angle Vale – Expansion of the township (946.6 hectares) with a potential for an additional 4,560 allotments.
- Playford North Extension – Development of 582 hectares of land in MacDonald Park, Munno Para Downs and Munno Para West which could realise an additional 7,834 allotments.
- Eyre – Development of 121 hectares which will likely realise an additional 994 allotments.
- Virginia – Development of 305 hectares which could realise an additional 2,125 allotments.
- Blakeview – Development of 431 hectares which could realise an additional 3,615 allotments.
- Buckland Park (Riverlea) – Development of 13,400 hectares which could realise an additional 11,200 allotments.
- Playford Alive – Development of 244.6 hectares which could realise an additional 1,292 allotments.
- Renewal SA (Defence Land) – Development of 36.0 hectares which could realise an additional 1,500 homes.

- On-going urban renewal – This development/growth should be taken into account when developing any potential future ward structure options.

Whilst the aforementioned potential future residential development/population growth was taken into account when developing the proposed future ward structure, Council acknowledges that the anticipated population growth will likely be extraordinary and accepts that another representation review may be required prior to the next review which will likely be scheduled for 2032/2033.

5.3 Topography

The City of Playford is approximately 344.9 km² in area and comprises long established residential suburbs located on both sides of Main North Road; rapidly developing outer residential suburbs; industrial and commercial precincts; and expanses of open rural land to both the east and west, parts of which are now planned for, or are being developed for, residential purposes. An extensive road network covers the City, and multiple pipelines and railway lines run through the Council area (basically from north to south).

The natural environment of the Council area stretches from the northern Adelaide coastline across the plains to the northern foothills of the Mount Lofty Ranges, and includes four significant watercourses (i.e. Little Para River, Adams Creek, Smith Creek and the Gawler River).

It is considered that the proposed future ward structure is a relatively simple and efficient division of the Council area which, in the main, befits and accommodates the existing pattern of development and topographical features of the Council area. Further, Council believes that the topography of the Council will have little or no physical impact upon Council's proposed ward structure, given that the structure has primarily been developed with the view to ensuring an equitable distribution of electors between the proposed wards; and providing for anticipated future growth in elector numbers.

5.4 Feasibility of Communication

Council believes that the Mayor and twelve ward councillors can provide adequate lines of communication between the elected members of Council and the community, taking into consideration the anticipated future growth in elector numbers; the size of the Council area; the nature and density of the urban development within the Council area; and the continual advancements in telecommunications and information technology.

5.5 Adequate and Fair Representation

Sections 26(1)(c) and 33(1) of the Act seek to ensure adequate and fair representation while at the same time avoiding over-representation in comparison to other councils of a similar size and type (at least in the longer term).

The comparison of representation arrangements between the City of Playford and the other metropolitan councils is not necessarily a straightforward exercise, given that no councils are identical in terms of their size (elector numbers and/or area), character, population, topography or communities of interest.

Table 4 provides (for comparison purposes) the elector data, elector ratios (i.e. the average number of electors represented by a councillor), and the size/area of the metropolitan councils. The data indicates that the City of Playford is currently the third largest metropolitan council in area and has the third highest number of elected members, but has only the sixth highest number of electors and the seventh highest elector ratio.

Table 4: Elector representation – Metropolitan councils

Council	Councillors	Electors	Elector Ratio
Walkerville (1.34 km ²)	8	5,849	1: 731
Prospect (7.81 km ²)	8	15,268	1:1,909
Gawler (41.10km ²)	10	20,200	1:2,020
Norwood Payneham & St Peters (15.1 km ²)	13	26,260	1:2,020
Unley (14.29 km ²)	12	27,989	1:2,332
Holdfast Bay (13.72 km ²)	12	28,595	1:2,383
Adelaide Hills (795.1 km ²)	12	30,954	1:2,580
Burnside (27.53 km ²)	12	32,347	1:2,696
West Torrens (37.07 km ²)	14	43,192	1:3,085
Adelaide* (15.57 km ²)	9	30,437	1:3,382
Campbelltown (24.35 km ²)	10	37,184	1:3,718
Mitcham (75.55 km ²)	12	49,516	1:4,126
Playford (344.9 km²)	15	71,441	1:4,763
Port Adelaide/Enfield (97.0 km ²)	17	90,157	1:5,303
Charles Sturt (52.14 km ²)	16	90,641	1:5,665
Marion (55.5km ²)	12	68,314	1:5,693
Tea Tree Gully (95.2 km ²)	12	74,791	1:6,233
Salisbury (158.1 km ²)	14	98,878	1:7,063
Onkaparinga (518.4 km ²)	12	133,756	1:11,146

Source: Electoral Commission SA (24th April 2024)

* City of Adelaide also comprises two (2) "area councillors".

A reduction in the number of elected members to twelve, as proposed, will:

- be in accordance with the provisions and intent of the Act;
- be consistent with the elector representation arrangements of thirteen (13) of the other eighteen (18) metropolitan councils which comprise twelve or less councillors;
- serve to increase the elector ratio to 1:5,953 which (on current elector data) which will be appropriate in comparison to the other metropolitan councils (i.e. potentially the fourth highest elector ratio); and
- result in some financial savings (e.g. councillor's annual allowance of \$22,828.00) which can be redirected into programs to benefit the community.

5.6 Quota

Ward quota is the number of electors within a ward divided by the number of ward councillors, whereas the elector ratio for the Council area is the total number of electors divided by the number of councillors (i.e. the Mayor is excluded).

Given the aforementioned, any potential future ward structure must incorporate wards wherein the distribution of electors is equitable, either in terms of numbers (if the wards have equal representation) or elector ratio. Under the latter circumstance, the elector ratio within each ward must be within 10% of the average elector ratio for the Council area. The Act only allows for the 10% quota tolerance limit to be exceeded in the short term if demographic changes predicted by a Federal or State government agency indicate that the ward quota will not be exceeded at the time of the next periodic Local Government election.

As indicated in Table 2 (refer 3. Proposal, page 4), the elector ratios in each of the proposed wards lay well within the specified quota tolerance limits.

6. Current Public Consultation

In accordance with Section 12(7) of the Act, interested persons are invited to make a written submission to Council in respect to this report, and more specifically the composition and structure that Council proposes to introduce at the date of the next Local Government elections in November 2026.

Interested members of the community are invited to make a submission expressing their views on the future composition and structure of Council. Submissions can be made as follows and will be accepted between 2 September 2024 until 30 September 2024.

- Via Council's Online Engagement Hub (playford.engagementhub.com.au).
- Written submission addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, 12 Bishopstone Road, Davoren Park 5113.
- Emailed to playford@playford.sa.gov.au.

Further information regarding the elector representation review can be obtained on Council's website or by contacting Zoey Squires, Manager – Governance, on 8256 0333 or playford@playford.sa.gov.au.