

Representation Review Frequently Asked Questions

		
	<p>Representation Review: Shaping the future of your council</p>	
		

What is a Representation Review?

A Representation Review is a process that councils undertake to determine whether the community would benefit from an alteration to Councils composition or ward structure. Councils need to regularly hold Representation Reviews as part of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

Why are Representation Reviews important?

Representation Reviews are important for councils to make ensure that the structure of local government remains fair, equitable, and effective in representing the community.

What is looked at as part of a Representation Review?

A Representation Review looks at whether a council has:

- The appropriate number of councillors to provide fair and adequate representation to the community and perform the roles and responsibility of council;
- Wards or no wards;
- If it has wards, the appropriate ward boundary size, name and number; and
- The appropriate number of councillors per ward.

Why is City of Playford undertaking a Representation Review?

All South Australian councils are required to undertake a review of elector representation (a Representation Review) in accordance with section 12 of the *Local Government Act 1999* and as prescribed by the Minister for Local Government. The Minister for Local Government has determined that the City of Playford needs to complete a review between April 2024 – April 2025. Councils across South Australia have different time frames for Representation Reviews.

What are the steps in the Representation Review process?

1. Discussion Paper

The first stage of the review is the preparation of the *representation options paper*. This paper gives council the opportunity to review their current structure and composition and prepare alternative composition and structure options available for council to consider. The paper examines the advantages and disadvantages of the options for composition and structure available to the council.

2. Representation Report

Council determines and endorses an 'in principle' position on their future structure and composition. Council then prepares the representation review report that details the reasons supporting their position and must include any reasons for not supporting other options.

3. *Community Engagement*

The representation report informs the public of the 'in principle' decision of council and invites people to make written submissions in response to the council.

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4. *Final Report and Certification*

Council must consider any submissions received from the community and confirm their final decision. Once the report is finalised, council will forward the final report to the Electoral Commissioner for certification. Once the Electoral Commissioner is satisfied that the representation review has met the requirements of the Act, a certificate of compliance will be issued, allowing council to implement changes for the next periodical election.

Council is currently holding community engagement for its Representation Review. What has happened to get to this point?

Council has been working with consultant CL Rowe & Associates since January 2024 as part of the Representation Review process. This has included:

- Workshops with Council
- Preparation of a Discussion Paper to look at the matters impacting the City of Playford and potential revised composition
- In principle decision on a revised composition of council
- Development of Representation Report which outlines how Council reached its 'in principle' decision and the revised composition of council

Why is City of Playford working with a consultant?

The *Local Government Act 1999* prescribes that the Representation Report is to be written by a person who is qualified to write a paper on the alternatives that could be considered for the council composition and structure and address any representation and governance issues that may arise from the review. This ensures that the process is conducted with the highest levels of independence and transparency.

What has been taken into account when developing the revised composition that Council is considering?

Council has been considering:

- Demographic trends;
- Population data and projections;
- Communities of interest; and
- Elector representation and ward quotas; and
- Elector arrangements of other Councils of a similar size and type.

I live in Playford and have some thoughts on how the Council should be structured. How can I do this?

An important part of the Representation Review process is ensuring our community has the opportunity to shape the future of their council by being part of any decisions associated with changing the composition of council. You are encouraged to read the Representation Report and share your views. There are a number of ways you can share your views and these are listed below.

What is the existing composition of Council?

City of Playford is divided into five wards, with a Mayor and 15 Councillors. Each ward is represented by three Councillors.

What is the composition being proposed by Council?

The proposed composition can be found in the Representation Report.

When will the revised council composition take effect?

No decision has been made on the future composition of council. Council is currently seeking input from its community on a potential future composition and will consider all feedback before a final decision is made. Should there be changes to Council's composition, they will come into effect at the next local government election in November 2026.

What happens after community engagement?

Following community engagement, Council will finalise a report by including information about all submissions made during the engagement period and its response to these.

Based on community feedback, Council may make substantial or minor changes to the proposed composition (if any). The final report will contain detailed analysis of the data, evidence and decision-making process used to reach the final position. This also includes all submissions received from the community during the engagement process.

The Representation Report is then forwarded to the Electoral Commissioner for consideration of certification.

Who makes the final decision on the proposed composition?

Council must refer the final Representation Report to the Electoral Commissioner for certification. It is the role of the Electoral Commissioner to determine if the statutory requirements have been met, and if so a certificate of compliance will be issued and the revised composition and structure will come into effect at the next local government election (November 2026).

When did City of Playford last undertake a Representation Review?

City of Playford last undertook a Representation Review in 2016-2017, which took effect in November 2018.



Representation Review

September 2024

How can I share my views?

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 playford.engagementhub.com.au
- Written submissions addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, 12 Bishopstone Road, Davoren Park, 5113
- Hard copies are available from Customer Contact locations at **Playford Civic Centre**, 12 Playford Boulevard, Elizabeth or **Stretton Centre**, 307 Peachey Road, Munno Para