



KATHERINE
TOWN COUNCIL

Review of Representation Arrangements
(Electoral Representation Review)
Section 23 of the Local Government Act 2008)

April 2020

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Katherine Town Council is undertaking an "electoral review" in accordance with the requirements of Section 23 of the Local Government Act (the Act) 2008. The review must:

- assess the constitutional arrangements presently in force;
- determine whether the current constitutional arrangements provide the most effective possible elector representation for the council area;
- be undertaken at least once in the Council's term; and
- be completed by the end of August 2020 (or earlier if required by Council).

The public consultation presently being undertaken by Council affords all interested members of the community the opportunity to express their views in respect to the proposed future composition and structure of Council, as detailed herein.

It should be noted that any proposed amendments to the existing composition and/or structure of Council will come into effect at the next Local Government election in August 2021.

Key issues relevant to the review include:

- the title of the principal member (i.e. Mayor or President);
- the title of the elected members (i.e. Alderman or Councillor);
- the number of elected members required to adequately represent the community and perform the roles and responsibilities of Council;
- the division of the council area into wards or alternatively the retention of the existing "no ward" structure; and
- if wards are preferred, the number of required wards; the level of representation within each ward; and the name/title of any proposed ward.

This report addresses key issues of the review, and provides information pertaining to the provisions of relevant legislation; elector data; elector representation ratios; levels of ward representation; comparisons with the constitutional arrangements other similarly sized councils; demographic trends; population projections; and potential residential development opportunities which may impact upon future elector numbers.

Whilst the Act affords Council the opportunity to review its current name and municipal boundaries, changes in respect to these issues are not being contemplated at this time. Notwithstanding this, Council welcomes the thoughts and suggestions of the community in regards to these matters.

Information pertaining to the issues relevant to the future composition and structure of Council, and the rationale behind Council's proposal, is provided hereinafter for consideration and comment.

2. REVIEW PROCESS

Council must ensure that all aspects of its composition and structure, including the division or potential division of the council area into wards, are comprehensively reviewed at least once in every term of Council (i.e. every four years). In order to ensure that the review will be comprehensive and transparent, Council has adopted the following process.

2.1 Council Workshop

The elected members have considered and discussed all issues relevant to the review at a workshop conducted in October 2019.

This Consultation Paper outlines the future composition and structure proposed by Council; and presents information in respect to all of the key review issues so as to enable interested members of the community to make an informed submission regarding Council's proposal and/or alternatives thereto.

2.2 Public Consultation

This is the current stage of the review process.

The community is being made aware of the electoral review and the future composition and structure which Council proposes to bring into effect at the next periodic election in August 2021.

Interested members of the public are invited to make written submissions or complete the relevant questionnaire (which is available on the Council website or in hard copy prearranged by email or phone)

The public consultation stage will be 25 days in duration; and will conclude at 5.00pm on Sunday 17 May 2020.

All submissions received will be duly considered by Council; and any person who makes a submission will be afforded the opportunity to make a verbal presentation to Council (if so desired), at a future meeting of Council (date to be determined).

2.3 Final Decision

Following consideration of the public submissions Council will determine the outcome of the review. The decisions and all supporting information relevant to the review process (including copies of all public submissions) will be contained within a report which will be forwarded to the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development.

Any proposed changes to Council's composition and/or ward structure will be considered by the Minister and, if approved, will come into effect at the next Local Government election (i.e. August 2021).

3. BACKGROUND AND CURRENT STRUCTURE

The Katherine Progress Association was formed in March 1937 and the Katherine Town Management Board was established in 1960. The Katherine Town Council was subsequently established in March 1978 with the first election being held in May of the same year.

The elected body of Council has always comprised an elected mayor and six (6) aldermen, and the council area has never been divided into wards (thus requiring all members to be elected at council-wide elections). This structure has been retained following a number of previous electoral reviews, the most recent being undertaken in 2006/2007, 2010/2011 and 2014/2015.

According to the Northern Territory Electoral Commission, the Katherine Town Council had 6,254 eligible electors as at the 9th October 2019, this equating to an elector ratio (i.e. the average number of electors represented by an elected member, excluding the Mayor) of 1:1,042.

Figure 1: Current structure/council area



4. PROPOSED FUTURE COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE

The elected members of Council propose that the future composition and structure of the Katherine Town Council should be as follows.

- The principal member of the elected Council be the Mayor, to be elected by the community at council-wide elections, as per the provisions of Section 44(1) of the Act.
- The elected members of Council (excluding the mayor) will bear the title of Councillor, rather than Alderman.
- The elected Council will comprise the Mayor and six (6) Aldermen (i.e. total of seven (7) elected members).
- The council area will not be divided into wards (i.e. the existing "no wards" structure is to be retained).

It should be noted that:

- the proposed future composition and structure of Council will come into effect at the next periodic Local Government election in August 2021;
- Council's proposal may be reviewed following consideration of the submissions which may be received as a consequence of the current public consultation process.

5. COMPOSITION OF COUNCIL

5.1 Principal Member

Section 42(1) of the Act specifies that the principal member of a municipal council is to have the title of Mayor; and Section 44(1)(a) of the Act requires the principal member to be elected by the community. As such, the office of the principal member is not an issue for review.

5.2 Alderman or Councillor

The Act does not identify the title to be given to an elected member (other than the principal member).

The elected members of the Katherine Town Council have long held the title of Alderman, with the use of this title being confirmed during the past electoral reviews.

Of the other councils in the Northern Territory, only two (i.e. the City of Darwin and the City of Palmerston) have aldermen. Further, the trend across the nation is away from the title of alderman, with only two councils in Tasmania currently having aldermen, although one of these (i.e. the City of Hobart) is already transitioning to councillors.

The alternative title of councillor is generally well accepted by the communities within other councils across the country; is less formal than "alderman"; is more contemporary; is not gender specific; and is consistent with the title adopted by the majority of Councils throughout Australia.

Regardless of their title, all elected members (except the principal member) have the same roles and responsibilities. Section 35 of the Act specifies that the role of a member is:

- to represent the interests of all residents and ratepayers of the council area;
- to provide leadership and guidance;
- to facilitate communication between the community and the council;
- to participate in the deliberations of the council and its community activities; and
- to ensure, as far as practicable, that the council acts honestly, efficiently and appropriately in carrying out its statutory responsibilities.

Council believes that, whilst the title of Alderman has long been known and accepted by the local community, the alternative title of Councillor is more appropriate and acceptable, given that it is less formal; is more contemporary; is not gender specific; and is consistent with the title of elected members in the vast majority of Councils throughout the nation.

6. ELECTOR REPRESENTATION

Regulation 63(1) of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2008 requires Council to assess *“whether the constitutional arrangements presently in force for electoral representation provide the most effective possible representation for the local government area of the council.”* This being the case, the review needs to identify (in part) the number of elected members who are required to provide adequate and fair representation of the electors of the council area; and to perform the roles and responsibilities of Council.

As there is no established formula or guideline to assist in determining an appropriate level of elector representation for the Katherine Town Council, the community will have to call upon their experiences in dealing with Council, as well as take some guidance from the structures of other councils. Similarly, the elected members have had to draw upon their practical experience in dealing with their constituents and their understanding of the demands of the office; as well as consider the structures of other councils within the Northern Territory and, to a lesser degree, from across the nation.

A comparison of Council’s elector representation arrangements with those of the other municipal councils within the Northern Territory (refer Table 1) indicates that Katherine Town Council is the largest council in area; has the least number of electors; has the second lowest number of elected members; and exhibits the lowest elector ratio (i.e. the average number of electors represented by an elected member).

Table 1: Elector details - Existing Northern Territory municipalities

Council	Members	Electors	Elector Ratio
Katherine (7,241 km²)	6	6,254	1:1,042
Alice Springs (327 km ²)	8	15,169	1:1,896
Litchfield (3,100 km ²)	4	12,345	1:3,086
Palmerston (95.6 km ²)	7	22,247	1:3,178
Darwin (112 km ²)	12	50,118	1:4,177

Source: Northern Territory Electoral Commission (June 2019)

A comparison with the elector representation arrangements of the regional councils within the Northern Territory is of little or no assistance, given that these councils generally cover expansive areas of open rural land/natural landscape and contain relatively small elector numbers which are either contained within small communities or spread sparsely across the council area.

A comparison with the elector representation of similar sized (elector numbers) councils across the nation (refer Table 2) indicates that Katherine Town Council is the second largest in area; has the least number of elected members; and exhibits the highest elector ratio.

Table 2: Elector representation, various capital cities

Council	Members	Electors	Elector Ratio
Collie Shire (WA – 1,710.9 km ²)	11	6,299	1:573
Manjimup Shire (WA – 1,710 km ²)	11	6,387	1:581
Upper Lachlan Shire (NSW – 7,102 km ²)	9	6,065	1:673
Mid Murray (SA – 7,957 km ²)	9	6,377	1:709
Berrigan Shire (NSW – 2,066 km ²)	8	5,821	1:728
Town of Cottesloe (WA – 3.9 km ²)	7	5,841	1:730
Renmark Paringa (SA – 915.5 km ²)	8	6,376	1:797
Town of Mosman Park (WA – 4.3 km ²)	7	5,971	1:853
Katherine (7,241 km²)	6	6,254	1:1,042

Source: Various Electoral Commission election reports (2016 - 2018) and NT Electoral Commission (9 October 2019)

It is also noted that, of the 537 councils in Australia, twenty-nine (29) comprise five elected members (including the principal member); and fifteen (15) comprise six elected members. The remaining council comprise seven (7) – seventeen (17) members.

Given that no two councils are identical in terms of their location, topography, character, demographics, area or size (i.e. elector numbers and population), it is difficult to draw any sound conclusions from the information provided, other than to accept that there are councils of a similar size (in terms of elected members) to the Katherine Town Council which seemingly operate successfully.

Regardless, there needs to be sufficient elected members to:

- ensure a meeting quorum can be readily achieved;
- lead and form the core of the Council committees;
- participate in discussion and decision making within the Council chamber;
- meet and share the demands placed upon them by their constituents;
- provide adequate lines of communication between the community and Council; and
- provide the desired diversity in skill sets, experience and backgrounds so as to ensure a range of viewpoints necessary to spur discussion, innovation and creativity in Council planning and decision-making.

The council area is likely to experience growth in elector numbers within the foreseeable future, primarily as a consequence of the planned future development in and about Katherine East. This anticipated residential (elector) growth should be taken into account when determining the appropriate number of elected members.

Arguments in favour of an **increase** in elected members include:

- 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.

An increase in elected members will have the following impact in respect to the elector ratio.

Seven councillors: 1:893

Eight Councillors: 1:781

Nine Councillors: 1:694

In addition, it should be noted that any proposal to increase the number of elected members will come at a cost to Council (e.g. the current elected member allowance alone is \$15,829.90 pa).

A **decrease** in the number of elected members may simply not be feasible or practicable, given the small number of existing elected members and the minimal benefits likely to be achieved.

Consideration should also be given to whether Council should comprise an even or odd number of elected members (not including the Mayor). Whilst there are no inherent disadvantages with either option, an odd number of elected members may serve to decrease the likelihood of a tied vote of Council and thereby avoid the need for the Mayor to exercise the right of a "casting" vote (as per the provisions of Councils "Elected Member General Policy and Procedures").

Council believes that the existing number of elected members has served the Katherine Town Council well over many years; and can continue to provide fair, adequate and direct representation of the existing communities located throughout the council area. Further, it is considered that this level of representation and the existing elector ratio (1:1,042) is comparable with the elector representation arrangements of similarly sized councils across the country; and the workloads of the elected members should continue to be manageable.

Given the above, Council is of the opinion that a change to the existing level of representation is not warranted at this time.

7. WARD STRUCTURE

The provisions of Section 9 of the Act and Regulation 63(3) infer that a council area may or may not be divided into wards.

7.1 Wards/No Wards

7.1.1 No Wards

The advantages of the existing "no wards" structure include:

- "no wards" is the optimum form of democracy as the electors vote for all of the vacant positions on Council;
- the most supported candidates from across the council area will likely be elected;
- the elected members should be free of ward-centric attitudes;
- the lines of communication between Council and the community should be enhanced, given that members of the community will be able to consult with any and/or all members of Council, rather than feel obliged to consult with their specific ward members;
- the structure still affords opportunities for the smaller communities to be directly represented on Council, if they are able to muster sufficient support for a candidate and vote; and
- successful candidates generally have to attract no more votes than they would have received/required under a ward based election.

The disadvantages of a "no wards" structure include:

- the elected members could come from the more heavily populated parts of the council area rather than from across the whole of the council area;
- a single interest group could gain considerable representation on Council;
- concern council-wide elections will not guarantee that elected members will have any empathy for, or affiliation with, all communities across the whole council area;
- Council has to conduct elections and supplementary elections across the whole of the council area (at a significant expense);
- under the "no wards" structure the more popular or known elected members may receive more enquiries from the public (i.e. inequitable workloads); and
- potential candidates for election to Council may be deterred by the perceived difficulties and expense associated with contesting council-wide elections

At present only two other municipal councils (i.e. the City of Palmerston and the Alice Springs Town Council) and two small regional councils (Wagait Regional Council and Belyuen Community Government Council) have no wards.

7.1.2 Wards

The advantages of a ward structure include:

- wards guarantee some form and level of direct representation to all parts of the council area and existing communities of interest;
- elected representatives of wards can focus on local issues as well as council-wide issues;
- elected representatives of wards may be known to their ward constituents (and vice versa);
- elected representatives of wards can have an affiliation with the local community and an understanding of the local issues and/or concerns;
- the task and expense of contesting a ward election may be less daunting to prospective candidates;
- Council only has to conduct elections and supplementary elections within the contested wards (potential cost saving); and
- ward based elections have the potential to deliver councillors from different parts of the council area, potentially resulting in a greater diversity of skill sets, experience, expertise and opinions amongst the elected members.

The disadvantages of a ward structure include:

- elected representatives of wards do not have to reside within the ward that they represent and, as such, may have no affiliation with the local community and/or empathy for the local issues and/or concerns;
- electors can only vote for councillors/candidates within their ward;
- candidates can be favoured by the peculiarities of the ward based electoral system (e.g. candidates elected unopposed or having attracted less votes than defeated candidates in other wards);
- elected representatives of wards may develop ward-centric attitudes and be less focussed on the bigger council-wide issues;
- ward boundaries are lines which are based solely on elector distribution and may serve to divide the community rather than foster civic unity;
- despite comparable ward elector ratios, uneven levels of representation between wards and/or the physical sizes of wards can create a perception of imbalance in voting power within Council; and
- elected representatives of wards generally consider themselves to represent not only their ward but the council area as a whole and, as such, the need for wards is questionable.

Council considered a number of ward structure options, accepting that the introduction of wards may provide some benefits in regards to elector representation and ensuring local interests are not overlooked in favour of the bigger council-wide issues. Notwithstanding this, Council supports the retention of the existing "no wards" structure as the elected members act in the best interest of the whole of the municipality; the electors vote for all of the vacant positions on Council; and the most favoured candidates from across the council area generally get elected.

7.2 Ward Representation

7.2.1 Single Member Wards

Single member wards:

- allow the local community to elect their representative;
- afford the elected member the opportunity to be more accessible to their constituents; and
- enable the elected member to concentrate on issues of local importance (rather than just the bigger council-wide picture).

On the downside the work load of the elected member can be demanding and absenteeism of the elected ward member (for whatever reason and/or period) will leave the ward without direct representation (as there is no legislative provisions for a short-term proxy member).

7.2.2 Multi-Member Wards

Multi-member wards (i.e. wards with two or more elected members):

- allow for the sharing of duties and responsibilities amongst the elected members;
- can achieve a greater diversity in the characteristics, skill-set and opinions of the elected members;
- lessen the likelihood of ward parochialism;
- increase the lines of communication between the community and Council (within a ward);
- afford continuous ward representation should a member be absent; and
- can be larger in area and therefore can afford the opportunity to maintain whole identified communities of interest within the one ward.

There are no inherent disadvantages associated with varying levels of representation between wards, however, such structures can be seen to lack balance and/or equity, with the larger wards (in elector and elected member numbers) being perceived as having a greater, more influential voice on Council, even if the elector ratios within the wards are consistent.

If Council was to support the introduction of wards it would not be opposed to varying levels of representation between the wards, provided such a structure afforded fair and adequate representation and the elector ratios within each ward were as equal as practicable

7.3 Ward Identification

The allocation of names of local significance (geographical and/or heritage) is a conventional means of ward identification which is generally accepted by the community (electors) provided there is a rational basis for the selection. On the downside, it may be difficult to achieve consensus over potential ward names which have heritage significance, as many options will likely be worthy for consideration.

The alternative means of ward identification are limited. The allocation of letters, numbers or direction points (e.g. north, south, east and west) are considered to be acceptable, but it is suggested that these methods lack imagination and fail to reflect the character and/or history of the council area.

If Council was to support the introduction of wards it would likely favour a simple means of ward identification which generally reflects the physical and cultural location of the ward within the council area.

8. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Regulation 63(2) stipulates that, when carrying out an electoral review, a Council must give proper consideration to the following matters.

- Communities of interest in the area including economic, social and regional interests.
- Types of communication and travel in the area with special reference to disabilities arising out of remoteness or distance.
- The trend of population changes in the area.
- The density of population in the area.
- The physical features of the area.

In addition, the provisions of Regulation 63(3) require Council take into account the following when the council area is to be divided into wards.

- The desirability of the number of electors for each ward being as near to equal as practicable at the next general election.
- The desirability of keeping the area of each ward containing rural and remote areas as small as practicable.
- The desirability of keeping the demographic and geographic nature of each ward as uniform as practicable.
- The desirability of including an identifiable community wholly within one ward if practicable.

In summary, if Council was to favour the division of the council area into wards, any proposed future ward structure would need to exhibit wards which have an equal number of electors (or an equitable elector ratio); and should take into account such matters as communities of interest; population; ward area; topography; transport opportunities; and demographic change. Neither the Act nor the Regulations place any priority upon these criteria.

8.1 Communities of Interest

For the purpose of electoral review proposals, "communities of interest" can be defined as aspects of the physical, economic and social systems which are central to the interactions of communities in their living environment. They can be identified by considering factors relevant to the physical, economic and social environment; regional communities; history and heritage communities; and environmental and geographic interests.

The obvious communities of interest within the council area are the suburbs/localities of Katherine, East Katherine, Katherine South, Binjari, Cossack, Edith, Emungalan, Florina, Lansdowne, Mialibrumby, Rockhole, Tindal, Uralla, Venn and Walpiri.

Given the complexities of the “community of interest” concept, a simple solution is to ensure (where practicable) whole suburbs/localities/settlements (i.e. perceived established communities of interest) should be included within a single ward (in any proposed future ward structure), thereby protecting and maintaining the identity and character of the community.

8.2 Communication and Travel

The council area is relatively large (i.e. 7,241 km²) and contains some remote localities and communities. Notwithstanding this, community access to information and communication technology through mobile telephones, the internet and electronic media has increased exponentially during the recent past, and these advances generally make communication between Council and the community an easier task.

8.3 Demographic and Population Trends

Australian Bureau of Statistics data (ABS 3218.0 Regional Population Growth, Estimated Resident Population) indicates that the estimated population for the council area:

- increased by 1,129 (9,689 – 10,818) or 11.65% during the period June 2006 - June 2013;
- decreased by 247 (10,818 – 10,571) or 2.29% during the period June 2013 – June 2016; and
- increased by 50 (10,571 – 10,621) or 0.47% during the period June 2016 – June 2018.

Overall, the above data indicates that the estimated population of the council area increased by 932 or 9.61% during the period June 2003 – June 2018, with a slowing in growth evident since June 2013.

In addition, the Australian Bureau of Statistics “Quickstats” indicates that the estimated population for the council area increased from 9,187 in 2011 to 9,717 in 2016 (i.e. 530 or +5.76%).

Further, elector data provided by the Northern Territory Electoral Commission indicates that elector numbers within the council area:

- increased by 270 (i.e. 4,815 to 5,085) or 5.6% between the 2008 and 2012 Local Government elections;
- increased by 545 (i.e. 5,085 to 5,630) or 10.71% during the 2012 and 2017 Local Government elections; and
- increased by 628 (i.e. 5,630 to 6,258) or 11.15% during the period August 2017 to October 2019.

The aforementioned indicates that the increase in population and/or elector numbers has continued at varying rates over recent years.

Council is also aware that:

- the Katherine Land Use Plan 2014 indicated the land in and about Katherine East had the potential for a further 400 – 640 (or more) dwellings which could accommodate more than 2,000 additional residents;
- the Katherine East Area Plan “Draft Land Capability and Needs Assessment” predicts that the planned future development of Katherine East could realise an additional 2,107 dwellings which could accommodate an additional 6,321 residents;

- the actual extent and timing of future residential development in and about Katherine East (and the resultant increase in elector numbers) is difficult to identify and/or quantify; and
- the future residential development opportunities in Katherine East should be taken into account (as much as practicable) when determining the future composition and structure of Council (especially any potential future ward structure).

8.4 Physical Features

Katherine Town Council covers approximately 7,421 km² and predominantly comprises tropical savannah woodland. The township of Katherine is set amongst a Karst landscape of ancient limestone formations, outcrops, rare Cycads and subterranean caves. Other ecosystems include open eucalypt forest, rugged escarpment dotted in Spinifex, seasonal floodplains and isolated pockets of monsoon rainforest.

The aforementioned topographic features were taken into account (along with physical features such as the townships and settlements, major road network, the railway line, property boundaries and Hundred boundaries) when future potential ward structure options were developed for consideration.

9. COUNCIL NAME AND BOUNDARIES

The opportunity exists for Council to consider possible future changes to its name and/or external boundaries, as well as the likely impacts thereof in terms of future elector representation (including the configuration of any future ward structure), as part of its current review.

9.1 Council Name

The name "Katherine" has been associated with the local area since 1862 when explorer John McDougall Stuart first named the Katherine River. Since that time the township and community of Katherine have developed and the name has long been recognised and entrenched.

Council has formally been named the Katherine Town Council since it was initially established in 1978.

Given the historical significance of the current name of Council (in regards to both the Northern Territory and the local area) and the fact that nothing extraordinary has occurred in recent times to prompt change, the elected members of Council are not contemplating a name change at this time. Notwithstanding this, Council welcomes the thoughts and suggestions of the community in respect to this matter.

Council supports the retention of the existing council name (i.e. Katherine Town Council).

9.2 Municipal Boundaries

Whilst Council is not contemplating changes to its external boundaries as part of the current review, there is some potential for change (e.g. the inclusion of Katherine Gorge), however, the feasibility and viability of any changes would have to be investigated thoroughly; and any proposed changes to the municipal boundary would need to have the consensus of any affected neighbouring council and/or authority.

Council is not contemplating any changes to the municipal boundaries at this time; but is prepared to consider the suggestions and comments of the community in regards to this matter.

10. SUMMARY

The Katherine Town Council is undertaking a review of the current constitutional arrangements (“the review”) in accordance with the provisions of Section 23(1) of the Local Government Act 2008, so as to assess the adequacy of the constitutional arrangements presently in place and, in particular, whether they provide the most effective possible elector representation for the council area. It is Council’s intention that the review be completed by early 2020; and that any agreed amendments to the future structure and/or composition of Council be put into effect at the Local Government elections scheduled for August 2021.

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

- the composition of Council, more specifically the number of elected members required to adequately and fairly represent the electors and communities within the council area and to perform the roles and responsibilities of Council;
- the title of the elected members (i.e. Alderman or Councillor);
- whether or not the council area should be divided into wards;
- if the council area is to be divided into wards, the identification of a ward structure which exhibits a reasonably equitable distribution of electors between the proposed wards and provides opportunities for the representation of all existing communities; and
- the title of any proposed future wards.

Having considered all relevant matters, Council has agreed that the following future constitutional arrangement model be presented to the local community for consideration and comment.

- The current composition of Council (i.e. the Mayor and six elected members) be retained.
- The elected members of Council (other than the mayor) bear the title of Councillor.
- The council area not be divided into wards (i.e. the existing “no wards” structure be retained).

Further, whilst Council is not contemplating changes to its current name and/or the existing municipal boundaries at this time, it invites the suggestions and comments of the community in respect to these matters.

Council is now seeking feedback from the community.

Interested members of the community are invited to make a submission expressing their views on the key issues and information contained within this report, as well as the proposed future composition and structure of Council outlined therein. A questionnaire (which is available on the Council website or in hard copy at the Council offices) has been prepared to assist members of the community to make a submission.

Submissions, which should be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, PO Box 1071, Katherine NT 0851, will be accepted until 5.00pm on (insert date).

Further information regarding the electoral review can be obtained by contacting Allan McGill, the acting Chief Executive Officer, on telephone (08) 8972 5500.