



**City of
Kalgoorlie
Boulder**

How does the WA Local Government Reform affect our Council?

Current composition of our Council

The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder's Council is currently comprised of 12 elected members and one Mayor (13 total members).

The Mayor is elected for a four term by popular community vote. The Deputy Mayor is elected by the Council for a two year term, immediately following a local government election.

Local Government Elections are held every two years and at each election, six Councillors are voted in for a four year term. This allows overlap between incoming and remaining Councillors.

Anticipated Reforms

The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries has recently advised local governments and the public of a number of proposed changes to the *Local Government Act 1995*. In particular, proposed changes which are anticipated to be enacted imminently are:

1. Introduction of optional preferential voting;
2. A requirement for local governments with a population of between 5,000 and 75,000 residents, including the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, to be reduced to between 5 and 9 Council members (including the Mayor);
3. Mayoral election through public vote (not Council vote); and
4. Requirement for review of Wards in local government districts with a view to abolishing Wards in smaller local government districts.

As the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder already elects the Mayor through public vote and has no Wards, in the short term it is only impacted by the proposed reduction in Council offices.

Two key decisions must be made by the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder ahead of the October 2023 local government elections:

1. How many elected members should comprise the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder Council?
2. What is the most effective method to transition to these new representational arrangements?

Have your say

We are seeking input from the community to help shape Council's determination of the above questions.

Page two of this flyer outlines two options which have been developed to encourage discussion. These may not be all of the options available and accordingly, you may suggest alternative proposals.

Such alternative proposals must be in accordance with the Department's transitional arrangements.

Community members are invited to consider and suggest options for representation change in line with the proposed amendments to the *Local Government Act 1995*.

Your feedback will be provided to Council and assist in determining the best way to transition to the proposed new representation arrangements for Local Governments in Western Australia.

How to make a submission

Complete the survey online (ckbunearthed.com.au/kbcouncil) or pick up a hard copy form at the City Administration Building, 577 Hannan St. Kalgoorlie 6430

Submissions close 9am Monday, 28 November 2022



DECISION ONE

How many Councillors should sit on the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder Council?

The maximum number of Council offices that can be held as a result of the reforms will be 8 Councillors plus the Mayor.

There should be an odd number in order to avoid a split vote.

In accordance with the reforms requiring between 5 – 9 Council members including the Mayor, the options are:

Option 1: 8 Councillors plus Mayor (9 member Council)

Option 2: 6 Councillors plus Mayor (7 member Council)

Option 3: 4 Councillors plus Mayor (5 member Council)

The advantages of less elected members may include the following:

- The decision-making process may be more effective and efficient if the number of elected members is reduced.
- Cost efficiencies for the City and ratepayers, with a potential saving of approximately \$42,000 per Councillor per annum (includes all allowances and payments).
- 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.

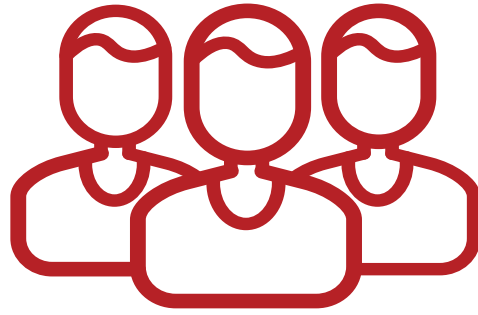


Questions for the community

1. Of the above options, which do you support and why?
2. Are there any other advantages or disadvantages to these options not included in this discussion paper which you think Council should consider?

The disadvantages of less elected members may include the following:

- 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.



DECISION TWO

What is the most effective way to reduce the number of elected members?

In October 2019, six members and the Mayor were each elected for four year terms and pursuant to the Local Government Act, their offices will be declared vacant in 2023.

At that time, the remaining six members who were elected in 2021 will have:

a further two years left in their terms if option 1 of this reform process is adopted; or

their term will be reduced to two years and their seats declared vacant in 2023 if option 2 of this reform process is adopted.

Option 1: Stagger reductions across 2023 and 2025 Local Government Elections

This option staggers the reduction of the elected members across two local government elections.

If this staggered approach is taken, the following will need to occur:

1. In October 2023, the local government election will take place to elect, for four year terms:
 - a) the Mayor; and
 - b) a reduced number of Councillors, being either (depending on the determination of Decision 1 above):

- 4 Councillors;
 - 3 Councillors; or
 - 2 Councillors
2. For the period between elections in 2023 and 2025, Council will have a transitional number of offices. Depending on the determination of Decision 1 above, that transitional number will be:
 - a) 11 elected members (to achieve a final 9 member Council);
 - b) 9 elected members (to achieve a final 7 member Council); or
 - c) 7 elected members (to achieve a final 5 member Council).
 3. In October 2025, the local government election will take place to elect, for four terms a reduced number of Councillors, being either (depending on the determination of Decision 1 above):
 - a) 4 Councillors;
 - b) 3 Councillors; or
 - c) 2 Councillors
 4. From 2027, election cycles will continue every two years to re-enter the ordinary election cycle and fill the relevant number of offices for four year terms.

Some advantages of option 1 may include the following:

- Retention of Councillors elected in 2021 means knowledge and strategic insight is retained.
- Councillors elected in 2021 would be able to finish the four year term that they were originally elected for. from the community.

Some disadvantages of option 1 may include the following:

- Transitional arrangements will be in place for two years until the 2025 local government election.
- Longer transition period could create confusion for some members of the community given the reduced number of vacant positions at each election.



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Option 2: Declare all offices vacant for re-election in 2023

This option means that all elected members’ offices, regardless of whether they were elected in 2019 or 2021 (and only halfway through their four year term) will be declared vacant and the entire Council including the Mayor will be voted in in 2023.

If this approach is taken, the following will need to occur during the October 2023 election:

1. All offices will be declared vacant;
2. Depending on the determination of Decision 1 above, the total number of offices needing to be filled through the October 2023 election will be:
 - a) 8 plus the Mayor
 - b) 6 plus the Mayor; or
 - c) 4 plus the Mayor

3. The Mayor will be elected for a four year term.
4. Depending on the determination of Decision 1 above:

- a) To achieve a final 9 member Council:
 - 4 Councillors will be elected for four year terms; and
 - 4 Councillors will be elected for two year terms;

Some advantages of option 2 may include the following:

- The final outcome for the representational changes will be achieved through the October 2023 local government election.
- Opportunity for community to develop a mandate for Council by voting for an entire Council in one election.
- The opportunity for a newly elected Council to set a clear strategic direction for the future based on the election outcomes.

- b) To achieve a final 7 member Council:
 - 3 Councillors will be elected for four year terms; and
 - 3 Councillors will be elected for two year terms;
- c) To achieve a final 5 member Council:
 - 2 Councillors will be elected for four year terms; and
 - 2 Councillors will be elected for two year terms;
5. The determination of which elected members are elected for a four year term and which elected members are elected for a two year term will be based on the number of votes received (ie. those with the higher number of votes will be allocated to four year terms and those with the lower votes will be appointed for two year terms).
6. At the 2025 local government election, the offices of those members who were elected for two year terms will become vacant and the ordinary election will fill those offices for four year terms.
7. At the 2027 local government election, the offices of those elected members who were elected for four year terms, including the Mayor, will become vacant and the ordinary election will fill those offices.

Some disadvantages of option 2 may include the following:

- Risk of loss of knowledge if no current Councillors are re-elected in 2023.



Option 3: Alternative process proposed by community

The City invites alternative suggestions from the community as to how a reduction in Council members could be effected between 2023 and 2025 local government elections. Any such suggestions must be consistent with the Local Government Act and not diverge from the proposed reforms.



Questions for the community

1. Of the above options, which do you support and why?
2. Are there any other advantages or disadvantages to these options not included in this discussion paper which you think Council should consider?

Make a submission and have your say.

We are seeking input from the community to help shape Council's determination of the above questions.

Complete the survey online (ckbunearthed.com.au/kbcouncil) or pick up a hard copy form at the City Administration Building, 577 Hannan St. Kalgoorlie 6430

Written submissions can be made using the enclosed hard copy form or in your preferred written format including your full name, address and contact details. Written submissions should be delivered to the attention of the Governance Officer, City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder:

- In-person: Administration Building, 577 Hannan St. Kagoorlie
- Email: mailbag@ckb.wa.gov.au
- Post: City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, PO Box 2042, Kalgoorlie WA 6432

Submissions close 9am Monday, 28 November 2022

SUBMISSION FORM

Local Government Reform in Kalgoorlie-Boulder

(Please include attachments if more space is needed)



Full Name

Address

Suburb/Town

State

Postcode

Phone

Email

DECISION ONE

HOW MANY COUNCILLORS SHOULD SIT ON THE CITY OF KALGOORLIE-BOULDER COUNCIL?

(Please tick your preferred option)

Option 1: 8 Councillors plus Mayor (9 total)

Option 2: 6 Councillors plus Mayor (7 total)

Option 3: 4 Councillors plus Mayor (5 total)

Why do you support the option you have ticked?

Are there any other advantages or disadvantages to these options (not included in the information flyer) which you think Council should consider?

DECISION TWO

WHAT IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF ELECTED MEMBERS?

(Please tick your preferred option)

Option 1: Stagger reductions across 2023 and 2025 elections

Option 2: Declare all offices vacant for re-election in 2023

Option 3: Other alternative process (please detail)

Why do you support the option you have ticked?

Are there any other advantages or disadvantages to these options not included in the discussion paper which you think Council should consider?

SUBMISSIONS CLOSE: 9am Monday, 28 November 2022