NT LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION REVIEW

Discussion Paper 2026

Prepared by the Local Government Representation Review Committee

YOUR SAY
YOUR WAY

LGRR2026.COM.AU

WHAT

WHAT IS A LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL?

A Local Government Council, or LGC, is the third sphere of government, after federal and state or territory governments.

LGC's are governed by elected members or councillors and led by a Mayor or President.

LGCs are responsible for community-level services. They manage local roads, car parks, street signage, stormwater drainage, lighting, footpaths, parking, cycle paths, parks, gardens, playgrounds, sporting fields and courts, swimming pools, public toilets, animal management, land and coast care programs, libraries, waste management, and cemeteries.

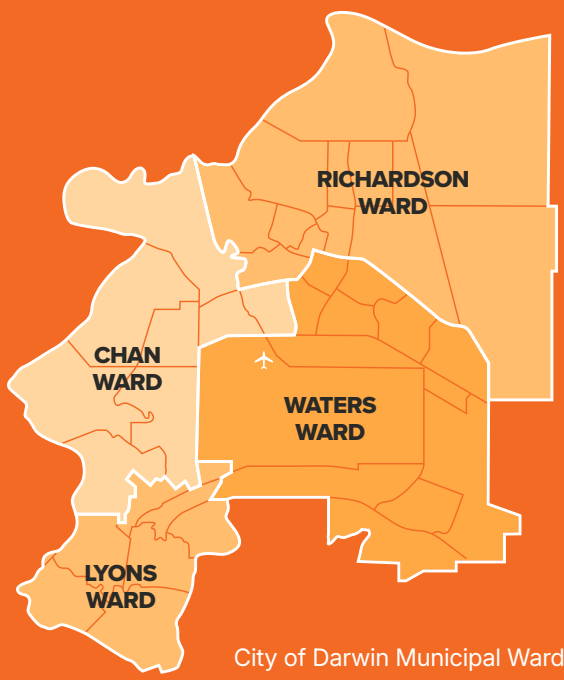
They are also responsible for community events and programs such as youth and seniors support, sport and recreation, disability services, as well as child and aged care. In some places, they deliver Centrelink and Australia Post services.

LGCs are primarily funded through the collection of rates, fees, and government grants.

Local government representation is crucial because it ensures decisions directly affecting daily life are made by people accountable to the community.

An LGC ward is a geographic division of the larger local government area, designed to ensure fair representation by dividing the council into smaller areas. Electors within each ward vote to elect councillors to represent their area on the council.

The legal and geographic limit of the LGC area is defined by administrative boundaries. The LGC area determines which area a local council manages, provides services for, and holds responsibility for, including voter representation for that specific area.



City of Darwin Municipal Wards

WHAT IS A LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION REVIEW?

The aim of the Local Government Representation Review (LGRR) is to ensure that all voters in a local government area are fairly represented. This is done through a comprehensive approach that considers factors beyond formal equal numerical representation and implemented via a framework of equitable representation rather than sole equal representation.

Electoral representation reviews also consider and evaluate suggestions on how the best community representation by elected members is best provided at the local government (or council) level in the NT.

Legislative changes to the Local Government Act 2019 established an independent Local Government Representation Committee to make determinations about LGC wards, their boundaries and representation for all the Territory's councils.

In 2026 legislative amendments changed the committee's role to that of providing their recommendations to the minister who then decides if any changes will be made.

Recommendations are made following a process set out in legislation and explained in this discussion paper which involves engagement and consultation with stakeholders, including councils and the public.

The 2026 Local Government Representation Review will be the second representation review conducted. The first, conducted in 2022, can be found online at: https://ntec.nt.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/local-government-areas/2022-local-government-representation-reviews

WHAT USED TO HAPPEN BEFORE THE COMMITTEE WAS ESTABLISHED?

Wards for regional LGCs in the NT were introduced during the major local government reforms in 2008, which restructured nearly 60 community councils into regional councils.

Prior to the 2019 legislative changes, LGCs carried out their own reviews and made recommendations to the Minister for Local Government about any desired changes. The minister then endorsed any changes or recommendations after consideration. A summary of the history of recent changes is included in Appendix A.

The establishment of the committee addressed any conflict of interest concerns of councils or elected members reviewing their own representation.

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If you need further information phone (08) 8944 9688
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