Have your say: local government representation review submissions close 2 October

24 September 2026

Territorians are being urged to share their views on how their communities are represented by local government councils before submissions to the 2026 Local Government Representation Review close on Friday 2 October.

The review covers all 18 Northern Territory councils and examines council and ward boundaries, the number of elected members and whether existing arrangements continue to provide fair and effective representation.

The Local Government Representation Review Committee Chair Mary Watson said residents, community organisations, peak bodies, and Traditional Owners had valuable local knowledge that could help inform the review.

“This is about how your community is represented in decision making at the local government level.

“Perhaps your council area has grown substantially, a ward boundary needs adjusting to allow representation of suburbs that have strong connections, or you believe the number of councillors needs to be reconsidered. These are the kinds of issues we want people to tell us about.

“We also want to hear where current arrangements are working well, and why,” Ms Watson said.

Local government councils are responsible for local roads, car parks, street signage, stormwater drainage, lighting, footpaths, parking, cycle ways, parks, gardens, playgrounds, sporting fields and courts, swimming pools, public toilets, animal management, land and coast care programs, libraries, waste management, cemeteries, and community events and programs such as youth and seniors support, sport and recreation, disability services, and child and aged care.

The review considers whether wards should be introduced, removed or adjusted; whether councillor numbers or ward names should change; and whether changes to local government boundaries are needed.

Ms Watson said people did not need to be experts in local government to contribute.

“A useful submission explains what is happening in your community, what you think should stay the same or change, and the reasons for your view.

“If you would like to make a submission, now is the time,” she said.

The independent committee will consider submissions alongside factors including population change, community connections, geography, travel and communication before developing recommendations. Final decisions rest with the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Community Development.

To read the discussion paper and find out how to make a submission, visit lgrr2026.com.au. Submissions can be emailed to submissions@lgrr2026.com.au.

Submissions close Friday 2 October 2026.

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