

Budget and Strategic Issues Committee



14/09/2015	BDS040-16
Report Title:	Review of Ward Boundaries
File Number:	2015/90374
Author:	Manager Administration and Risk

REPORT SUMMARY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this Report is to provide Council with an opportunity to review its Ward boundaries as required pursuant to the provisions of Section 211 of the Local Government Act, 1993.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATION:

That consideration be given to the boundaries of Wards A, B, C, D and E.

FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

Nil.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS:

Nil.

POLICY / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Section 211 of the Local Government Act, 1993 requires Council to:

1. Keep its Ward boundaries under review; and
2. If proposing to make any changes, submit details of any changes proposed to the boundaries of its existing wards to the Electoral Commissioner.

LIST OF APPENDICES:

Appendix "A" - Map of current Ward boundaries.

Appendix "B" - Map of alternate Ward boundaries.

PREVIOUS CONSIDERATION / HISTORY OF MATTER:

The matter was last reviewed and considered in report FIN009-12 📄.

REPORT IN FULL

Purpose

Section 211 of the Local Government Act, 1993 requires Council to:

1. Keep its Ward boundaries under review; and
2. If proposing to make any changes, submit details of any changes proposed to the boundaries of its existing wards to the Electoral Commissioner.

Council must also ensure:

- (a) **Any change to ward boundaries** must not result in a variation of 10% between the number of electors in each ward; and
- (b) The boundaries, as far as practicable, correspond to the boundaries of appropriate subdivisions, within the meaning of the parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act, 1912 and its Collector Districts. In practical terms this means that a boundary of a Ward should not sever a boundary of a Census Collector District.

The Electoral Commission of NSW has written to council advising that any variations to ward boundaries or names need to be submitted to the Commission by Monday 14 December, 2015 if they are to be used for the local government elections to be held in September 2016.

Background

It is of importance for the Council to note that if during a term of office the Council becomes aware that the number of electors in one ward differs by more than 10 percent from the number of electors in any other ward, and the difference remains at the end of the first year of the next term of office, the council must alter its ward boundaries to rectify the imbalance in the number of electors in each ward. This does not currently affect Council.

Current Situation

Council previously reviewed its Ward boundaries in July 2011. Table A, which follows, indicates the number of electors per ward based upon the State Electoral Office enrolment figures as at 17 June 2011.

Table A

A	B	C	D	E	Total
31,506	32,040	30,547	30,319	31,237	155,649

In analysing Table A, Councillors will observe that the variation in the number of electors enrolled between Wards B (highest) and D (lowest) equals 5.67%. The State Electoral Office informed Council that the enrolment figures were based upon the electoral rolls as at 17 June 2011.

Table B has been produced to show the number of electors per Ward as at 24 May 2015 with a total of 162,921 electors.

Table B

A	B	C	D	E	largest variation between wards
34,239	33,518	31,710	31,612	31,842	8.28%

In analysing Table B, Councillors will observe that the variation in the number of electors enrolled between Wards A (highest) and D (lowest), equals 8.28%. The State Electoral Office has informed Council that the enrolment figures are based upon the electoral rolls as at 24 May 2015.

Whilst the current variance of 8.28%, does not require council to adjust its boundaries under Section 211 of the Local Government Act 1993, it should be noted that short term growth of as few as an additional 600 electors in A ward (without a complimentary increases in other wards) would push the variance between wards wider than the allowed 10% and would require council to alter its boundaries if this situation arises. This report provides council with an opportunity to consider an alternate ward boundary arrangement that aims to make all five (5) wards as even as possible in regards to number of enrolled electors.

Attached as Appendix A to this report is a map showing current ward boundaries. If Councillors require a more detailed map this can be supplied upon request.

Geographic Segmentation of the Shire

Designing ward boundaries is not a simple process as council must utilise the elector number data provided by the NSW Electoral Commission. Until recently electors were grouped into Census Collector Districts (CCD's) which on average had between 200 to 500 electors in each CCD. In the main each CCD will be comprised of 5 - 10 adjoining street blocks. When re-designing ward boundaries each CCD had to sit entirely within a ward, this limits the natural geographical features or roadways that may be utilised as a ward boundary. Council utilised the CCD boundaries when ward boundaries were last adjusted in 2002.

As of 21st May 2015 the NSWEC and its Joint Enrolment Partner have changed the geographic segmentation of the NSW electoral roll from the previous Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) standard of Census Collection Districts (CCD) to the new ABS standard Statistical Areas Level 1 (SA1). The ABS describe SA1 as "the smallest unit for the release of census data with a population between 200-800 people (on average 400 people)". The Electoral Commission of NSW have confirmed that Council will be required to utilise the SA1 boundaries for any future changes to ward boundaries.

Review of Current Boundaries

Council is not required to change its ward boundaries because of the change in geographic segmentation of the NSW Electoral Roll. However it is expected that the variance between wards could exceed 10% within the first year of the new term of council, so it may be prudent for council to give consideration to altering ward boundaries at the present time to allow the 2016 local government elections to be conducted with a set of wards that have reasonably consistent levels of elector numbers. Council's Manager Administration and Risk has reviewed the current ward boundaries with the view to establish a set of wards that have reasonably consistent levels of elector numbers, that also allow for varying expected growth rates between wards, as well as boundaries that are easy to define and follow major roads, train lines or major geographic features wherever possible.

It should be noted that some previous ward boundaries, that would normally have been retained, will not be able to follow the same route, as the SA1 boundaries and the former CCD boundaries are not consistent in all areas.

Following the review and allowing for the boundaries possible working with the new SA1 boundaries an alternate set of ward boundaries has been developed that has the following features:

- reduced the variation in elector numbers between wards to a maximum of 3.88%
- E Ward made largest in population size due to higher projected growth rates in other wards
- greater utilisation of significant / main roads and rail lines as ward boundaries
- neater and more easily identified ward boundaries at the junction of A, B and C wards

Alternate Ward Boundaries

If an alternate ward boundary structure is to be adopted, the new SA1 boundaries will require that two large parcels of unpopulated land will need to transfer between wards.

- The entire Royal National Park now is completely within a single SA1 and as such must be contained within a single ward. As the suburbs of Maianbar and Bundeena are located within A Ward it is proposed to also place the Royal National Park within A Ward. This will result in the current boundary between A and D Ward that runs in a north-south direction midway through the National Park being moved west to run along the eastern side of Waterfall, Heathcote and along the eastern side of the Princes Hwy.
- The SA1 that contains Prince Edward Park, Woronora is now bounded by the Woronora River and as such is now more appropriate to situate it in E Ward.

The following changes to existing ward boundaries are proposed.

Move from A Ward to B Ward

Area bounded by Port Hacking Road, Castelnau Street, Willarong Road and Lilli Pilli Point Road

Move from C Ward to A Ward

Area bounded by Woollooware Road, Captain Cook Drive, Murrarni Ave, Carabella Road, Yathong Road, Taronga Parade, Warrington Ave, Bellevue Parade and the Illawarra Rail Line

Move from B Ward to C Ward

Area bounded by Denman Ave, Cawarra Road, Captain Cook Road, The Boulevard, Miranda Road and The Kingsway

Move from B Ward to D Ward

Area bounded by Acacia Road, Princes Hwy, Oak Road, Flora Street, Rear of Shops on Eastern Side of Oak Road, Illawarra Rail Line, President Avenue, Kirrawee Ave, Forest Road, Mundakal Ave, F6 Corridor, and Grafton Street

Move from C Ward to D Ward

Area bounded by Princes Hwy, Acacia Road, Oak Road and Waratah Street

Move from D Ward to E Ward

Area bounded by First Ave, Loftus Ave, Linden Street, The River Road and Prince Edward Park

The proposed ward boundaries will result in a distribution of electors per ward as follows:

Table C

A	B	C	D	E	largest variation between wards
32,291	32,074	32,336	32,791	33,317	3.88%

Attached to this report are several maps that show the existing and proposed ward boundaries. Appendix "A" is a map of current Ward boundaries and Appendix "B" is a map of the alternate proposed Ward boundaries (with the existing ward boundaries overlayed in red).

The Variation Process

If council chooses to go ahead with endorsing an amendment to its ward boundaries then in accordance with s210A of the Local Government Act, 1993 the proposed ward boundaries will need to be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days and council must accept submissions on the proposal for a period of 42 days from the date that the ward boundary plan is placed on public exhibition. The council would then need to consider any submissions made during that submission period before making application to the Minister for a variation to ward boundaries.

The Electoral Commission of NSW has advised that any variations to ward boundaries need to be submitted to the Commission by Monday 14 December, 2015 if they are to be used for the local government elections to be held in September 2016. To allow time for the 42 day submission period and a further report to consider submissions, if council is desirous of amending its ward boundaries then it would need to do so by 12 October, 2015.

REPORT RECOMMENDATION

1. That the report 'Review of Ward Boundaries', pursuant to Section 211 of the Local Government Act, 1993, be received and noted.
2. That in accordance with s210A of the Local Government Act, 1993 the proposed ward boundaries detailed in the report, and as shown in Appendix "B" be endorsed and placed on public exhibition.
3. That a further report be provided with the results of the public exhibition.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

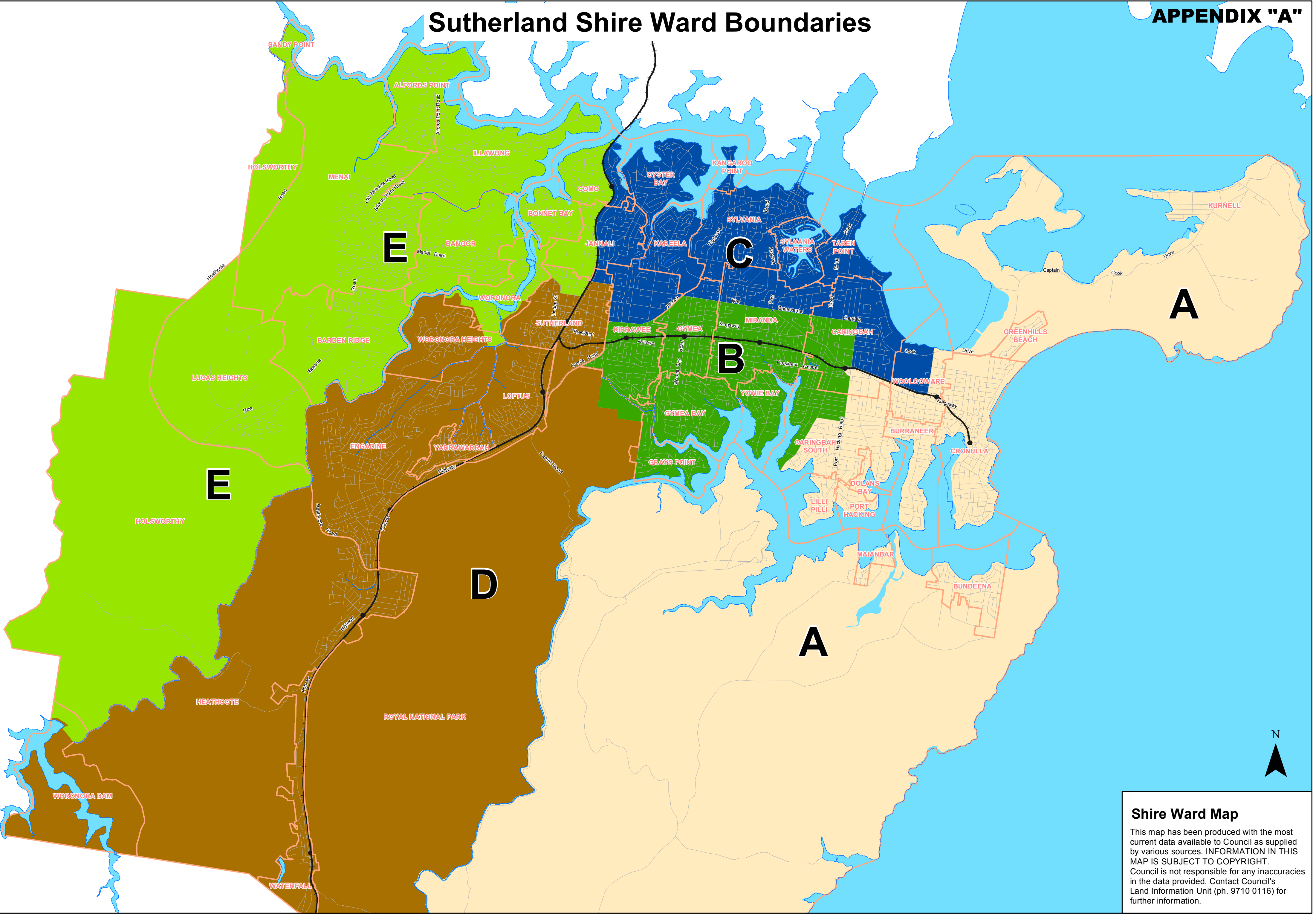
1. That the report 'Review of Ward Boundaries' be deferred for a workshop within one round of Council between the Manager Administration and Risk and all Councillors.
2. That an SA1 collector districts map be provided to all Councillors.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

1. That the report 'Review of Ward Boundaries', pursuant to Section 211 of the Local Government Act, 1993, be received and noted.
2. That in accordance with s210A of the Local Government Act, 1993 the proposed ward boundaries detailed in the report, and as shown in Appendix "B" be endorsed and placed on public exhibition.
3. That a further report be provided with the results of the public exhibition.

Sutherland Shire Ward Boundaries

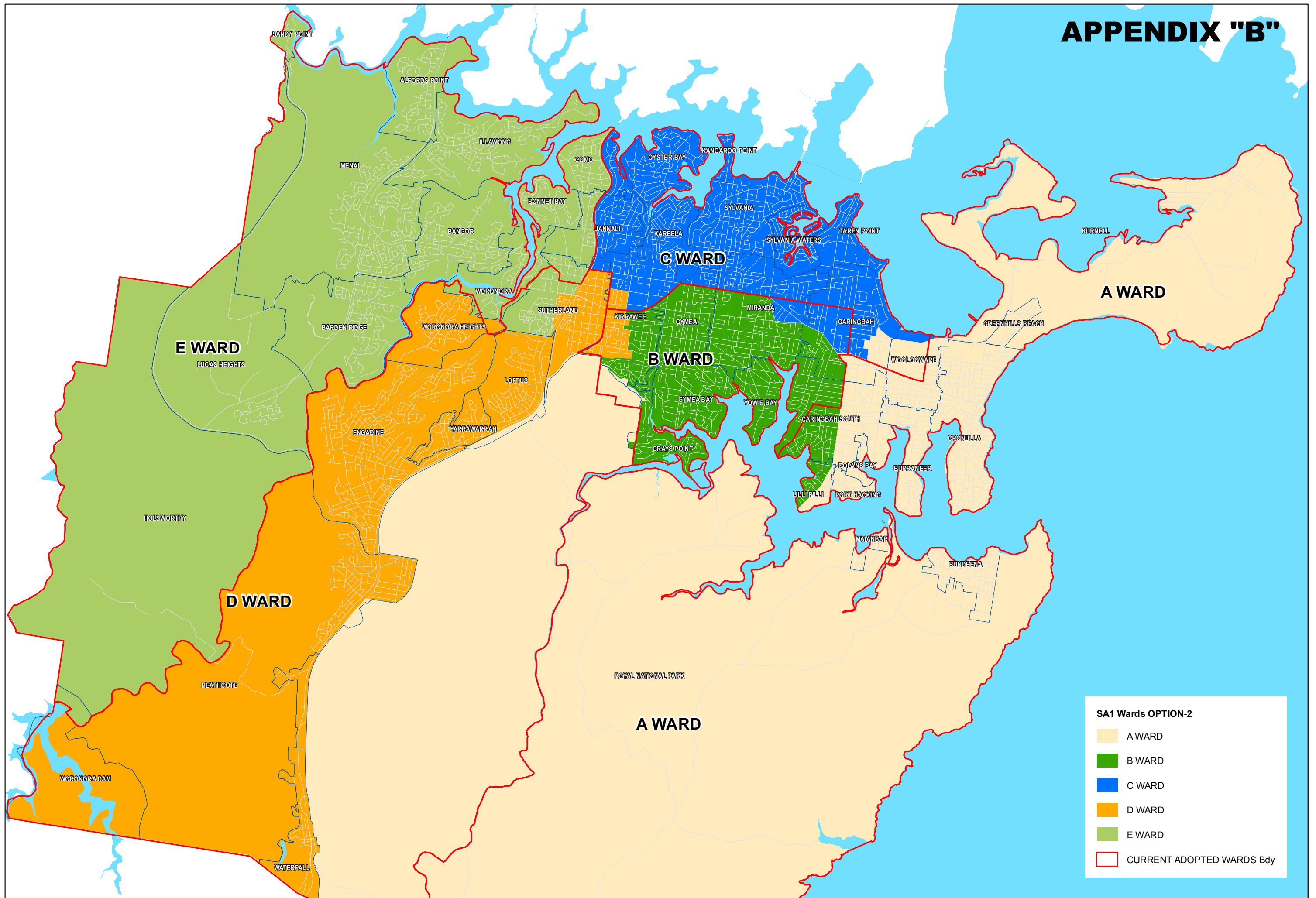
APPENDIX "A"



Shire Ward Map

This map has been produced with the most current data available to Council as supplied by various sources. INFORMATION IN THIS MAP IS SUBJECT TO COPYRIGHT. Council is not responsible for any inaccuracies in the data provided. Contact Council's Land Information Unit (ph. 9710 0116) for further information.

APPENDIX "B"



Ward Boundaries SA1 CD - Option 2