



CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE COUNCIL

October 27, 2023

Media Release

Option for adjustment of Ward Boundaries Selected

A preferred option for the Central Darling Shire Council Ward Boundaries adjustment has been adopted by the Council at its October meeting.

The Shire has three wards based around the main population Centres. The reason for the boundary adjustment is because the Local Government Minister has indicated that the Council will come out of administration at the next election. As part of the preparations for the election Council needs to meet requirements for the number of electors in each ward. The previous wards had a greater variance than what is allowed.

At its October meeting Council resolved to adopt the second option put forward in the Ward Boundaries Adjustment proposal, which was placed on public exhibition for comment at the end of August this year. Two submissions were received.

The new boundary adjustment will move White Cliffs into B Ward but maintain all of Wilcannia Township in A Ward. It also results in outlying rural electors north and east of Menindee moving into A Ward. Sunset Strip electors have moved into C Ward.

- **A Ward** - Wilcannia, outlying rural electors north and east of Menindee.
- **B Ward** – Ivanhoe, Tilpa, White Cliffs.
- **C Ward** – Menindee, Sunset Strip.

Following public exhibition and public comment, discussion between the Council General Manger and the Administrator, it was decided that Option Two did not split the township of Wilcannia into separate wards. However, Option One would have split Wilcannia Township. White Cliffs township, originally in A Ward would now be in C Ward. Taking onboard the public comments and further analysis, Option Two was the preferred option servicing and advocating for communities across entire local government area.

Under section 211 of the *Local Government Act 1993* councils that are divided into wards must keep ward boundaries under review to ensure the difference in elector numbers between wards does not exceed 10%. The previous ward boundaries had a greater difference and while this wasn't a problem under administration it needed to be resolved before potentially moving to a local government election.

The Council will now advise the Electoral Commissioner to enact on Central Darling Shire Council Proposed Wards-Option 2 for the 2024 Local Government Elections.

Ends.

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