



Shire of Broome 2020

**Review of Wards and
Representation**

Discussion Paper

Background

The Shire of Broome has resolved to undertake a review of its ward system to comply with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act).

Schedule 2.2 of the Act requires local governments with wards to carry out reviews of the ward boundaries and the number of Councillors for each ward from time to time so that no more than eight years elapse between successive reviews.

The last review of wards in the Shire of Broome was undertaken in 2016 and it is now appropriate to carry out another review so that any changes can be in effect prior to the October 2021 Local Government Elections.

Current situation

Currently the Shire of Broome has nine (9) Councillors elected from two (2) wards as follows:

The table below shows the Councillor to elector ratios at the time of the October 2019 local government election.

WARDS AND REPRESENTATION

Ward	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors	Councillor to Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
Broome	7	6,554	1:936	-9.10%
Dampier	2	1,169	1:585	+31.8%
Total	9	7,723	1:858	Not Applicable

(Source: District Roll provided by WAEC for the October 2019 Ordinary Local Government Election)

The % ratio deviation gives a clear indication of the % difference between the average Councillor/Elector ratio for the whole Shire and the Councillor/Elector ratio for each ward.

The Local Government Advisory Board has expressed the view that it will tolerate a plus or minus 10% deviation in the Councillor to elector ratio. The above table shows that the Dampier Ward has a significant deviation above that. A balanced representation would be reflected in the % ratio deviation being within plus or minus 10%. A change to ward boundaries or the ward system should be considered to address the imbalance in representation across the Shire.

Maps showing the ward boundaries are attached.

Review process

The review process is set out in the *Local Government Act 1995* schedule 2.2.

1. In order to begin a review, the Shire must pass a resolution at Council to this effect.
2. Prior to carrying out a review, the Shire must give local public notice advising that the review is to be carried out and that submissions may be made to the Shire. The public submissions period it to be not less than 6 weeks after the notice is first given.
3. The Shire is encouraged to provide several options as a basis to generate discussion.
4. Public submission period closes, and the submissions received are collated and reviewed.
5. Council considers all submissions received.
6. Council reaches a decision based on an assessment of the options against a number of established criteria as contained in schedule 2.2 clause 8 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.
7. A report is then submitted to the Local Government Advisory Board.
8. If a change is proposed and the Board is satisfied with the recommendation, then the Board submits the recommendation to the Minister for Local Government.

Factors to be considered

Under schedule 2.2 clause 8 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, a number of criteria have been established upon which a local government is to assess any changes proposed to be made to the ward system. These criteria include;

1. Community of interest;
2. Physical and topographic features;
3. Demographic trends;
4. Economic factors; and
5. Ratio of Councillors to Electors in the various wards.

The Local Government Advisory Board offers the following interpretation of these factors:

1. Community of interest

The term community of interest has several elements. These include a sense of community identity and belonging, similarities in the characteristics of the residents of a community and similarities in the economic activities. It can also include dependence on the shared facilities in an area as reflected in catchment areas of local schools and sporting teams, or the circulation areas of local newspapers.

Neighbourhoods, suburbs and towns are important units in the physical, historical and social infrastructure and often generate a feeling of community and belonging.

2. Physical and topographic features

These may be natural or man-made features that will vary from area to area. Water features

such as rivers and catchment boundaries may be relevant considerations. Coastal plain and foothills regions, parks and reserves may be relevant as may other man-made features such as railway lines and highways.

3. Demographic trends

Several measurements of the characteristics of human populations, such as population size, and its distribution by age, sex, occupation and location provide important demographic information. Current and projected population characteristics will be relevant as well as similarities and differences between areas within the local government.

4. Economic factors

Economic factors can be broadly interpreted to include any factor that reflects the character of economic activities and resources in the area. This may include the industries that occur in a local government area (or the release of land for these) and the distribution of community assets and infrastructure such as road networks.

5. Ratio of Councillors to Electors in the various wards

It is expected that each local government will have similar ratios of Electors to Councillors across the wards of its district. It is the Board's preference for the ratio between wards to fall between the plus or minus 10% range.

Options to consider

The Council will consider the following options and members of the community may suggest others:

Option 1 - Maintain the current ward system and ward boundaries, and current number of Councillors. (Against the guidance of the Local Government Advisory Board)

Option 2 - Maintain the current ward system but amend the Broome Ward boundary to include Coconut Well, 12 Mile, Skuthorpe and those electors in the Roebuck locality that fall within the amended Broome Ward Boundary;

Reducing the Dampier Ward Councillor representation to 1; and

Increasing the Broome Ward Councillors to 8.

This achieves the recommended 10% variance in representation as preferred by the Local Government Advisory Board.

Ward	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors	Councillor to Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
Broome	8	6,782	1:848	+1.2%
Dampier	1	941	1:941	-9.6%
Total	9	7,723	1:858	Not Applicable

Option 3 - No wards.

This option involves the dissolution of the existing ward boundaries.

Simplified structure with Councillors elected to represent the entire Shire.

Retaining nine Councillors, would provide a ratio of 1 Councillor to 858 electors.

As previously indicated members of the public may suggest other options for consideration.

To assist, the following Locality elector numbers are provided.

Current Ward	Locality	# of Electors
Broome	Bilingurr	606
Broome	Broome	1,809
Broome	Cable Beach	2,564
Broome	Djugun	1,465
Broome	Minyirr	65
Broome	Roebuck (Broome Ward)	45
Dampier	Dampier Peninsula	569
Dampier	Eighty Mile Beach	25
Dampier	Gingerah	4
Dampier	Lagrange	327
Dampier	Roebuck (Dampier Ward)	179
Dampier	Waterbank	65
	TOTAL	7,723

The attached maps indicate the current Wards and localities within each Ward.

As provided in the options, also under consideration will be the number of Councillors for each ward and the district. For example, it may be that fewer Councillors will provide good representation and may result in financial savings and more effective and efficient decision making.

Public submissions

Members of the community are invited to make a written submission about any aspect of ward boundaries and representation.

A submission form is provided at the end of this document for your convenience. You do not have to use this form for your written public submission.

Your written submission should be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer and clearly marked "Ward and Representation Review" and can be lodged by any of the following methods:

Online Submission: www.broome.wa.gov.au

Email to: shire@broome.wa.gov.au

Hand deliver to: Shire of Broome
Cnr Weld and Haas Streets
BROOME WA 6725

Post to: Shire of Broome
PO Box 44
BROOME WA 6725

All submissions must be received by 4pm on 27 November 2020.

Thank you for your interest and involvement in this review. Council welcomes your comments on any matters that may assist it to make informed and responsible decisions for the benefit of the people of the Shire of Broome.

Cr H N Tracey
Shire President

S C Mastrolembo
Chief Executive Officer

**PUBLIC SUBMISSION PRO FORMA
SHIRE OF BROOME
REVIEW OF CURRENT WARD BOUNDARIES AND THE NUMBER OF
OFFICES OF COUNCILLOR 2020**

Note: This form is provided for your convenience. Written public submissions do not have to be made on this form.

To: Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Broome
PO Box 44
BROOME WA 6725

Email: shire@broome.wa.gov.au

I support the following Ward Boundary/ number of Offices of Councillor:

Option 1: Retain existing 2 Ward System – 9 Councillors (7 Broome Ward – 2 Dampier Ward)

Yes No

Or

Option 2: Maintain the current ward system but amend the Broome Ward boundary to include Coconut Well, 12 Mile, Skuthorpe and those electors in the Roebuck locality that fall within the amended Broome Ward Boundary;

Reducing the Dampier Ward Councillor representation to 1; and

Increasing the Broome Ward Councillors to 8.

Yes No

Or

Option 3: Introduce a no-ward system – 9 Elected Members

Yes No

Or

I propose the following Ward boundary/Councillor structure:

The Shire of Broome should have Wards and Councillors.

The Shire's Wards should have the following names and number of Councillors:

Name	No of Councillors
Ward 1.....
Ward 2.....
Ward 3
Ward 4

The Shire's Wards should contain the following suburbs/localities and/or physical/topographic features:

- Ward 1
- Ward 2
- Ward 3
- Ward 4

Comments in support of my preferred option:

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Submitted by:

Name:

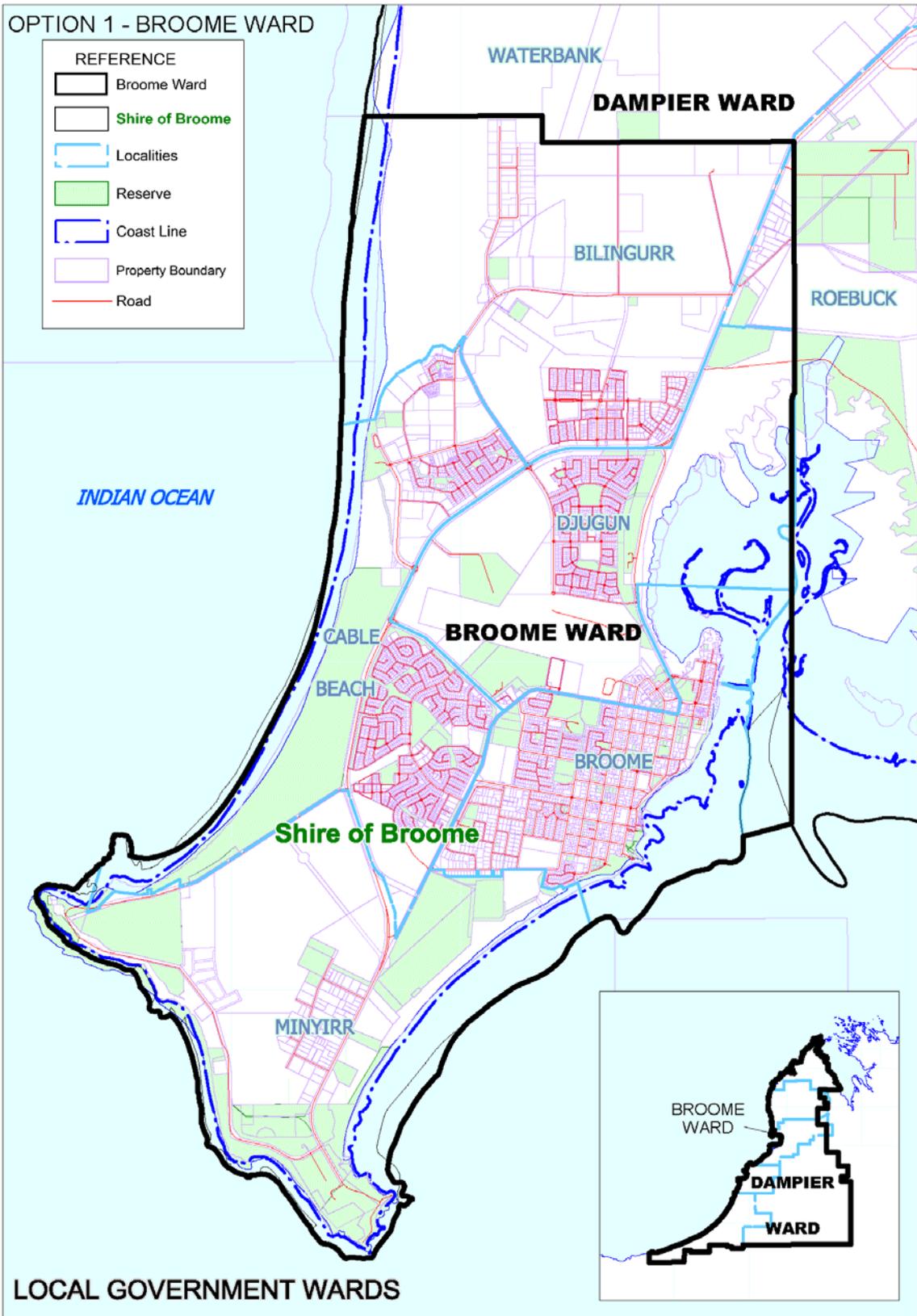
Address:

Contact details:

The Shire of Broome thanks you for your submission.

OPTION 1 - BROOME WARD

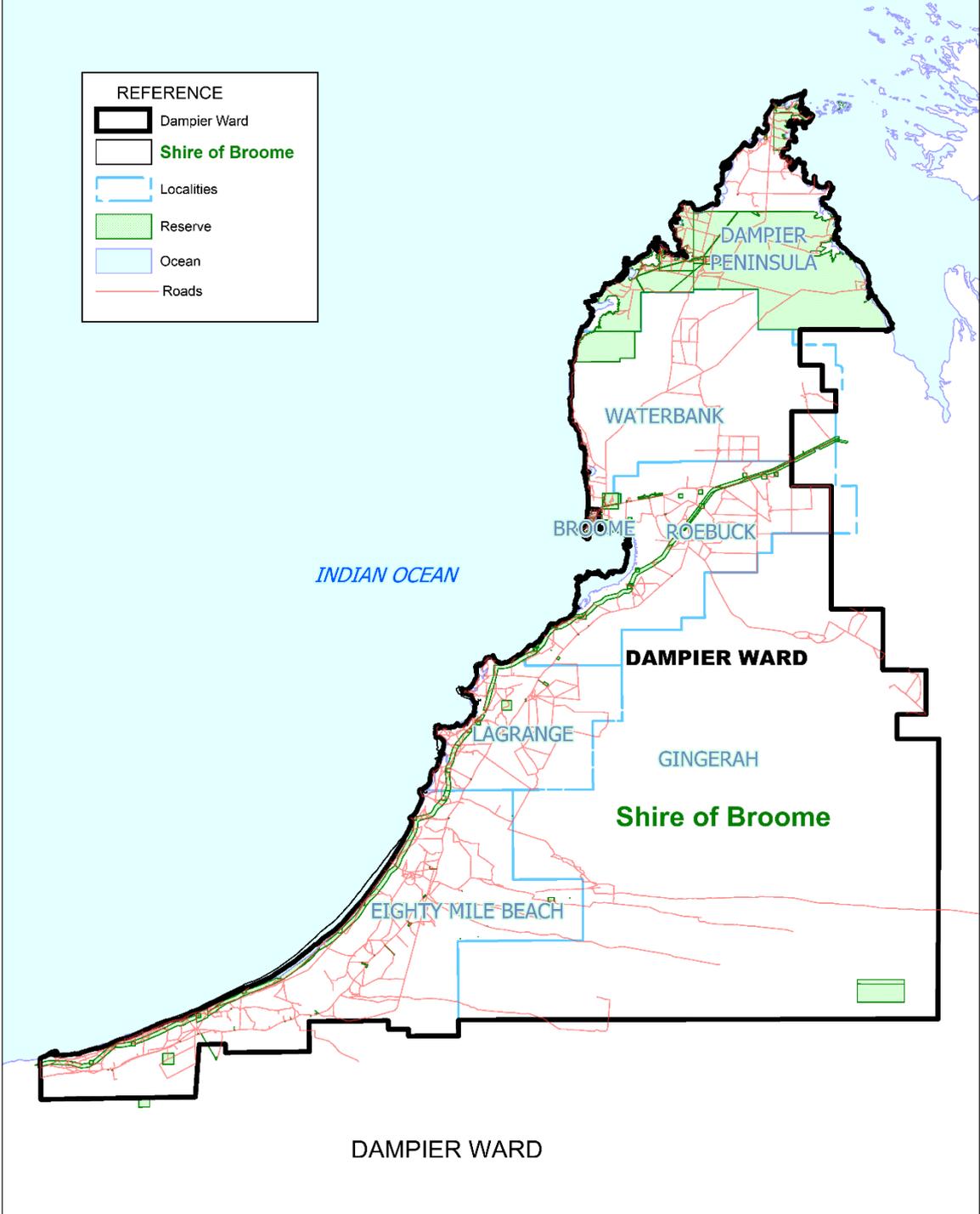
REFERENCE	
	Broome Ward
	Shire of Broome
	Localities
	Reserve
	Coast Line
	Property Boundary
	Road

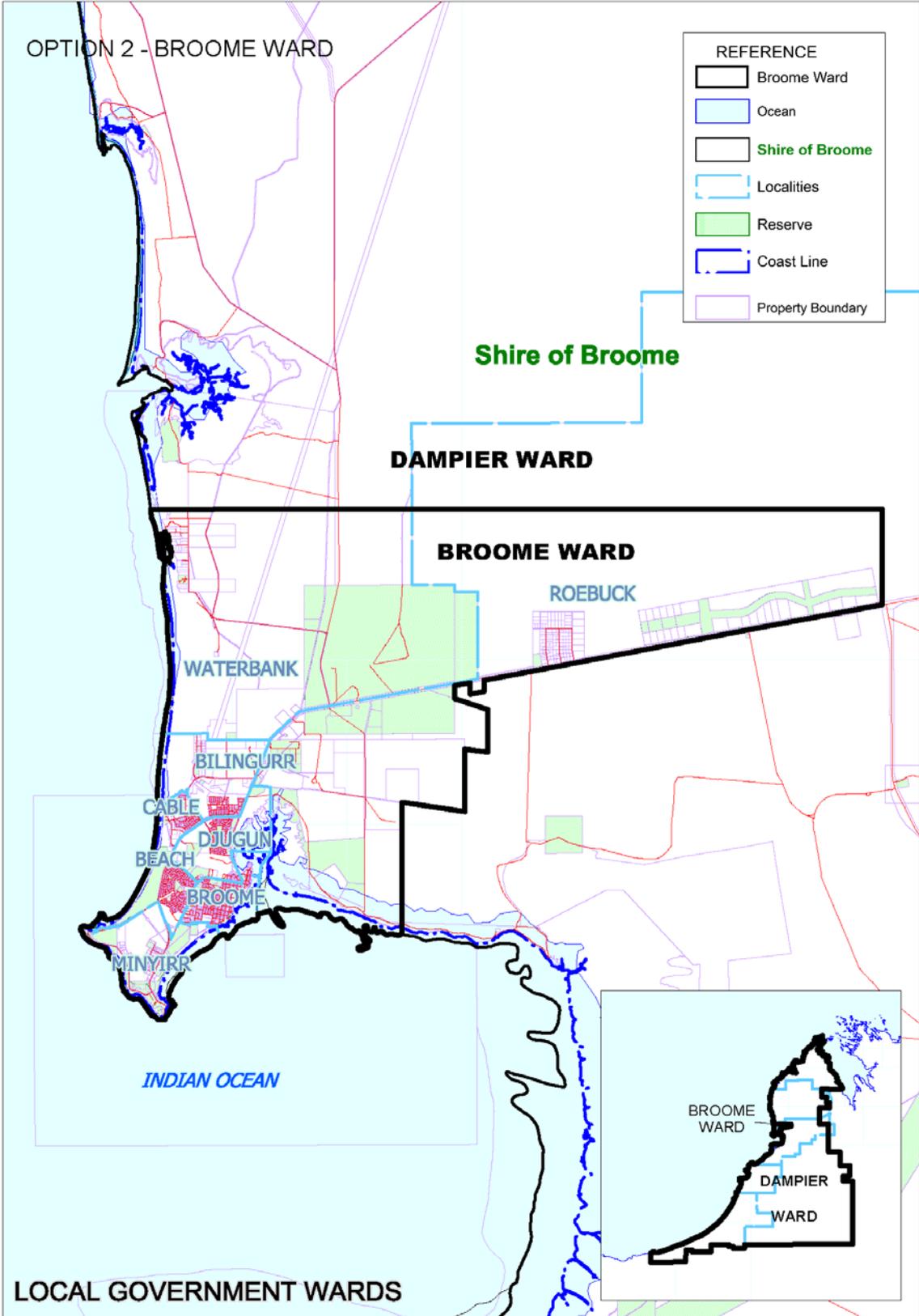


LOCAL GOVERNMENT WARDS

OPTION 1 - DAMPIER WARD

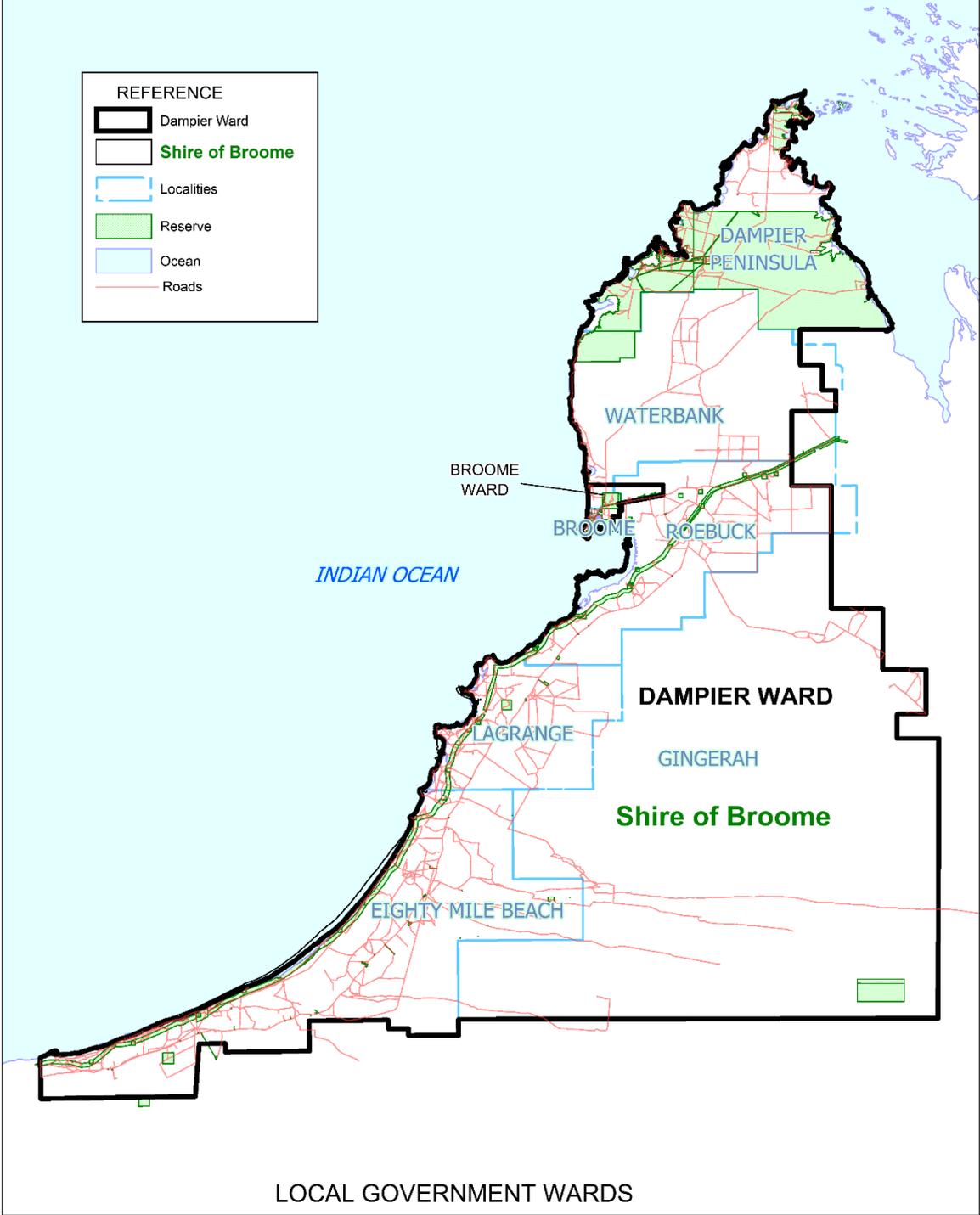
REFERENCE	
	Dampier Ward
	Shire of Broome
	Localities
	Reserve
	Ocean
	Roads





OPTION 2 - DAMPIER WARD

REFERENCE	
	Dampier Ward
	Shire of Broome
	Localities
	Reserve
	Ocean
	Roads



OPTION 3

NO WARDS NINE COUNCILLORS ELECTED TO REPRESENT ENTIRE SHIRE

