



New South Wales

Local Government Amendment (Local Democracy—Ward Representation Reform) Bill 2011

Explanatory note

This explanatory note relates to this Bill as introduced into Parliament.

Overview of Bill

The object of this Bill is to amend the *Local Government Act 1993* to provide that each council for an area that is divided into wards must have at least 3 councillors for each ward.

The Bill also provides that, at least six months before the next ordinary council elections, each council of an area divided into wards that has fewer than 3 councillors for each ward must alter its ward boundaries or change its number of councillors or both to ensure that it complies with this new requirement. A council will not need to obtain approval at a constitutional referendum for a change to the number of councillors made in accordance with the new requirements.

Outline of provisions

Clause 1 sets out the name (also called the short title) of the proposed Act.

Clause 2 provides for the commencement of the proposed Act on the date of assent to the proposed Act.

Clause 3 amends section 224 of the *Local Government Act 1993* to give effect to the Overview above.

Introduced by Mr David Shoebridge, MLC

First print



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Local Government Amendment (Local Democracy—Ward Representation Reform) Bill 2011

No. , 2011

A Bill for

An Act to amend the *Local Government Act 1993* to provide for a minimum of 3 councillors for each ward of a local council; and for other purposes.

The Legislature of New South Wales enacts:	1
1 Name of Act	2
This Act is the <i>Local Government Amendment (Local Democracy—Ward Representation Reform) Act 2011</i> .	3 4
2 Commencement	5
This Act commences on the date of assent to this Act.	6
3 Amendment of Local Government Act 1993 No 30	7
Section 224 How many councillors does a council have?	8
Insert after section 224 (3):	9
(4) A council for an area that is divided into wards must, following the next ordinary election after the commencement of this subsection, have at least 3 councillors for each ward.	10 11 12 13
(5) At least 6 months before the next ordinary election after the commencement of this subsection, each council of an area divided into wards that has fewer than 3 councillors for each ward must do either or both of the following to ensure that the council complies with this section:	14 15 16 17 18
(a) alter the ward boundaries of the area in accordance with Division 1 of Part 1 of this Chapter,	19 20
(b) change the number of councillors in accordance with this Division.	21 22
(6) However, a council is not required to obtain approval at a constitutional referendum for a change to the number of councillors made in accordance with subsection (5).	23 24 25