

Local council ward boundary review

Final Report

Greater Dandenong City Council

April 2024



© State of Victoria
(Victorian Electoral Commission)
April 2024

This work, Local council ward boundary review – Final report – Greater Dandenong City Council, is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 licence [<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>]. You are free to share this work under that licence, on the condition that you do not change any content and you credit the State of Victoria (Victorian Electoral Commission) as author and comply with the other licence terms. The licence does not apply to any branding, including Government logos.



Level 11, 530 Collins Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000
T 131 832
info@vec.vic.gov.au
vec.vic.gov.au

Content approval

Version	Date approved	Approved by
1	17 April 2024	VEC panel member
1	17 April 2024	Program sponsor

Report Approval

Version	Date approved	Approved by	Brief description
1	22 April 2024	Electoral Commissioner	Final approval

Acknowledgement of Country

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) acknowledges the Bunurong people as the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters for which it is holding this review and pays respects to ancestors and Elders past, present and emerging. The VEC acknowledges their custodianship for many thousands of years and their continuing living culture.

Contents

Executive summary	5
Recommendation.....	5
Summary of review steps.....	6
Developing ward adjustment models.....	6
Preliminary report.....	6
Response submissions	6
Public hearing	6
Background.....	7
About the 2024 ward boundary reviews	7
The VEC ward boundary review team.....	7
Public engagement	8
Developing recommendations.....	8
About Greater Dandenong City Council.....	10
Current electoral structure.....	12
Last electoral structure review.....	12
Preliminary findings and response.....	13
Preliminary report.....	13
Response submissions	14
Public hearing	15
Findings and recommendation	17
The recommended model	17
The VEC's recommendation	19
References	20
Appendix 1: Map of recommended model	21
Appendix 2: Public involvement	24
Response submissions	24
Public hearing	26

Executive summary

Under section 17 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic) (the Act), the Minister for Local Government asked the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) to conduct ward boundary reviews for 10 local council areas prior to the next general local council elections in October 2024.

For these 10 councils, the number of voters per councillor is forecast to be out of balance by October 2024, with the number of voters per councillor in one or more wards forecast to vary from the average number of voters per councillor for all of the wards by more than 10 per cent.

Greater Dandenong City Council was one of the 10 local council areas under review. The purpose of this review was to correct this forecast imbalance for the October 2024 local council election.

During its review, the VEC looked at:

- the number of currently enrolled voters in each ward
- the forecast number of enrolled voters at the next election
- adjustments to the locations of existing ward boundaries.

This report presents the VEC's final advice to the minister on the recommended ward boundary adjustments for Greater Dandenong City Council to meet the requirements of the Act.

More information about the background to the review is available on [page 7](#) of this report.

Recommendation

The VEC recommends adjustments to the boundaries of the following wards within Greater Dandenong City Council:

- Dandenong Ward
- Keysborough Ward
- Keysborough South Ward
- Springvale Central Ward
- Springvale North Ward
- Springvale South Ward
- Yarraman Ward

This recommendation is submitted to the Minister for Local Government as required by the Act.

Detailed maps of the ward boundary adjustments are provided as [Appendix 1](#) of this report.

Summary of review steps

Developing ward adjustment models

The VEC considered a range of factors when deciding on appropriate ward boundary adjustments:

- research and analysis
- voter growth or decline over time
- public submissions (see below).

More information on the way the VEC decided on ward adjustments is available on [page 8](#).

Preliminary report

The VEC published a preliminary report on Wednesday 28 February 2024. The following 2 models were presented for community consideration:

- Model 1, which proposed changes to the boundaries of Cleeland, Dandenong, Dandenong North, Keysborough, Keysborough South, Noble Park, Springvale South, Springvale Central, Springvale North and Yarraman wards.
- Model 2, which proposed changes to the boundaries of Dandenong, Keysborough, Keysborough South, Springvale South, Springvale Central, Springvale North and Yarraman wards.

A summary of the models presented can be found on [page 13](#).

The full preliminary report is available on the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) website at vec.vic.gov.au

Response submissions

The VEC received 213 submissions responding to the preliminary report. Of these, one submission included a map.

A full analysis of response submissions received can be found on [page 14](#).

Public hearing

The VEC held an online public hearing for those wishing to speak about their response submission at 10 am on Wednesday 27 March 2024. Three people spoke at the hearing.

Background

About the 2024 ward boundary reviews

Under section 15(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic), for a council that is divided into wards:

- a) each ward should have an approximately equal number of voters per councillor; and
- b) the number of voters per councillor in a ward should not vary from the average number of voters per councillor for all of the wards by more than 10 per cent.

On 22 February 2023, the VEC provided advice to the Minister for Local Government on councils that were projected to have at least one ward with the number of voters per councillor outside this +/-10% range at the time of the October 2024 local council elections.

This advice was based on:

- current enrolment and enrolment trends
- future population projections
- legislated changes to council entitlements for council-enrolled voters.

On 20 April 2023, in response to this advice and under section 17 of the Act, the minister asked the VEC to conduct ward boundary reviews for 10 local council areas before the October 2024 local council elections. These reviews aimed to balance the number of voters per councillor for the wards of these 10 councils in time for the 2024 elections. At the end of each review, the VEC must provide a report to the minister containing recommended ward boundary adjustments for the council.

Greater Dandenong City Council was one of the 10 local council areas under review.

During its review, the VEC looked at:

- the number of currently enrolled voters in each ward
- the forecast number of enrolled voters at the next election
- adjustments to the locations of existing ward boundaries.

A ward boundary review does not change a council's electoral structure, number of councillors, or ward names. A ward boundary review also cannot change the external boundaries of a local council, divide local councils, or amalgamate local councils.

The VEC ward boundary review team

The VEC ward boundary review panel provides a recommended structure to the Electoral Commissioner. The Electoral Commissioner will review the panel's recommendations and then decide on the final recommendations for provision to the Minister for Local Government. The VEC panel is made up of 2 senior VEC members including the program sponsor. Administrative and technical support for the program is provided by VEC electoral structure and boundary review experts as well as specialists from across the VEC.

Public engagement

Public information program

The VEC conducted a public information and awareness program about the Greater Dandenong City Council ward boundary review. This included:

- printed public notices in state-wide newspapers
- public information sessions to outline the review process and respond to questions from the community
- a media release to announce the start of the review
- information on social media channels
- website content on vec.vic.gov.au, including:
 - current information on the review process
 - fact sheets for each council under review and a submission guide.

Greater Dandenong City Council was also offered and took up 2 optional methods to promote the reviews:

- printed public notices in local newspapers
- targeted social media advertisements for the council area.

Public consultation

The VEC encouraged input to the ward boundary review of Greater Dandenong City Council via:

- response submissions to the preliminary report
- an online public hearing for those who made a response submission and wished to speak to VEC to expand on their submission.

Public submissions are an important part of the review process and were considered alongside other factors during the review. These factors are outlined below.

Developing recommendations

The VEC's final recommendations comply with the Act and were developed through careful consideration of:

- research and analysis conducted by the VEC, including geospatial, electoral and demographic data
- rates or patterns of population and voter change over time, and relevant forecasts of growth or decline based on forecast information provided by .id (informed decisions, a company specialising in demographics and forecasting).

When developing the final recommendation, the VEC considered:

- whether the adjusted wards would comply with section 15(2) of the Act (see below), and how long they are likely to comply

- whether meaningful and effective ward boundaries could be established and whether these would be easily identifiable to local communities
- the representation of communities of interest
- the voter distribution and physical features of the area, and the impact these may have on the shape and size of wards
- the scale of ward boundary changes, aiming for minimal change (where possible)
- other matters raised in public submissions not already listed above.

Under section 15(2) of the Act, subdivided structures must aim for an approximately equal number of voters per councillor across all wards. This means the number of voters represented by each councillor in a ward should be within +/-10% of the average number of voters per councillor for all wards of that council.

During this review, the VEC aimed to recommend ward boundary adjustments that help ensure a council's wards comply with section 15(2) at the time of the 2024 local council elections and, if possible, also comply based on voter numbers at the time the review is conducted. The VEC used forecasts of population and voter change to assess compliance at the 2024 elections with as much accuracy as possible.

In some cases, population change and other factors impacting voter numbers meant it was not possible to adjust the ward boundaries of a council so that both 'current' (at the time of the review) and 'forecast' (at October 2024) voter numbers were within the legislated +/-10% tolerance. Where this happened, the VEC prioritised compliance at the October 2024 elections to ensure each vote would have approximately equal value at the 2024 elections. In some cases, the VEC's recommended model may set the current ward deviations outside the +/-10% tolerance. This was because the ward deviations were forecast to change over a short period of time and move within the +/-10% tolerance by the time of the 2024 local council elections.

One of the factors that may impact compliance with section 15(2) is the number of current and forecast voters with ratepayer-based voting entitlements, also known as council-enrolled electors. Voters' rolls include both state-enrolled electors (the majority of the roll) and a smaller number of council-enrolled electors. The Act introduced changes to ratepayer-based entitlement categories, which come into full effect at the 2024 local council elections. The VEC took this change to the makeup of voters' rolls, and therefore compliance with section 15(2) of the Act, into consideration during this review.

About Greater Dandenong City Council

Greater Dandenong City Council was formed in 1994 when the former City of Dandenong was amalgamated with the City of Springvale. It is a metropolitan council, located approximately 25 km south-east from the Melbourne CBD. Covering an area of 130 km², the city is bordered by the city councils of Monash and Knox in the north, Kingston in the west, Frankston in the south and Casey in the east.

The Traditional Custodians of the land in the Greater Dandenong City Council area are the Bunurong people (ACHRIS 2024).

Landscape

The council area is serviced by numerous transport routes including the Monash Freeway, Eastlink, Princes Highway, Dandenong Bypass, Dandenong Valley Highway, mostly across the northern part of the council area. The Mornington Peninsula Freeway forms the council's south-western border.

Geographical features include Patterson River in the south, which is fed by Dandenong and Eumemmerring creeks. Other notable features include Sandown Raceway in Springvale, Dandenong Civic Centre and the Drum Theatre in central Dandenong, Melbourne Cable Park in Bangholme, and Springvale Botanical Cemetery, which is the largest cemetery in the state.

Community

In 2021, the population of the council area was approximately 158,208, an increase of 16.6% since 2011 when the population was 135,605 (ABS 2022a; ABS 2022b). The population is projected to continue growing by around 1.1% per year until 2028, with the main areas of growth expected around central Dandenong, Keysborough and Springvale.

The City of Greater Dandenong is one of the most diverse councils in the country, with residents being born in over 160 countries (REMPLAN 2024). Just over 60% of the population were born outside Australia (61.4%), which is significantly greater than 37.3% for Greater Melbourne overall (REMPLAN 2024; ABS 2022a; ABS 2022c). The top 5 countries of birth outside Australia are Vietnam (9.3%), India (7.5%), Cambodia (5.5%), Sri Lanka (4%) and China (3.1%), while the top 5 languages other than English spoken are Vietnamese (11.9%), Khmer (6.1%), Mandarin (3.9%), Punjabi (3.4%) and Cantonese (2.8%) (ABS 2022a).

The northern parts of the municipality have a largely suburban profile, with major activity centres clustered around the Dandenong rail corridor in suburbs like Springvale, Noble Park, and Dandenong, while Keysborough is also a significant area for commercial activity and urban development. South of Dandenong CBD is the South Dandenong industrial area, one of the largest in Melbourne, and the industrial heartland for the wider south-eastern Melbourne metropolitan area. The most southern parts of the council area are designated green wedge land, with a sparser semi-rural geographic profile than found in the suburban north.

At 36, the median age of residents is comparable to Greater Melbourne and Victoria (37 and 38), while at around 7.3%, unemployment is higher than the metropolitan (5.3%) and state (5%) rates (ABS 2022a; 2022c; 2022d).

Home ownership, at 61.2%, is lower than the Greater Melbourne rate of 66.8% (owned outright and with a mortgage), while the proportion of households renting is higher (35% compared with 30.2%) (ABS 2022a; ABS 2022c). The weekly median household income is \$1,453, which is much lower than the Greater Melbourne median of \$1,901 (ABS 2022a; ABS 2022c). The City of Greater Dandenong is the most disadvantaged council area in Greater Melbourne, with the suburbs of Dandenong, Noble Park, and Springvale South some of the most disadvantaged localities in the state (ABS 2023).

Current electoral structure

Greater Dandenong City Council has a total of 11 councillors and is divided into 11 single-councillor wards (Cleeland, Dandenong North, Dandenong, Keysborough, Keysborough South, Noble Park North, Noble Park, Springvale Central, Springvale North, Springvale South and Yarraman wards).



Figure 1: Diagram of current electoral structure of Greater Dandenong City Council.

There are an estimated 103,940 voters in Greater Dandenong City Council, with an estimated ratio of 9,449 voters per councillor.

By October 2024, the voter-to-councillor ratios of Springvale South, Keysborough, and Keysborough South wards are forecast to be outside of +10%, and the voter-to-councillor ratios of Dandenong, Springvale North, and Yarraman wards are forecast to be outside of -10%.

Visit the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au for more information on Greater Dandenong City Council.

Last electoral structure review

The VEC conducted an electoral representation review of Greater Dandenong City Council in 2019. That review was carried out under the *Local Government Act 1989* (Vic), which was replaced by the *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic).

After conducting the review, the VEC recommended that Greater Dandenong City Council continue to consist of 11 councillors elected from 4 wards (3 wards with 3 councillors each and 1 ward with 2 councillors). Please note, the current structure differs from the one recommended in the 2019 final report.

Visit the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au to access a copy of the 2019 representation review final report.

Preliminary findings and response

The current ward boundary review of Greater Dandenong City Council was required due to the voter-to-councillor ratios in Springvale North, Keysborough South, and Dandenong wards, which were projected to be outside the legislated +/-10% range at the October 2024 local council election. Adjusting the boundaries of these wards would inevitably have some flow-on effects, requiring adjustments to most other wards throughout the council. In Model 1, 10 wards would be adjusted, while Model 2 would have 7 wards adjusted.

Preliminary report

The VEC's ward boundary review of Greater Dandenong City Council began with the release of a preliminary report on Wednesday 28 February 2024.

The full preliminary report is available on the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au

When preparing the preliminary report, the VEC considered a range of ward boundary adjustments for Greater Dandenong City Council and chose the strongest 2 models for public consultation:

- Model 1 proposed changes to the boundaries of Cleeland, Dandenong, Dandenong North, Keysborough, Keysborough South, Noble Park, Springvale South, Springvale Central, Springvale North and Yarraman wards.
- Model 2 proposed changes to the boundaries of Dandenong, Keysborough, Keysborough South, Springvale South, Springvale Central, Springvale North and Yarraman wards.

Model 1

The VEC put forward Model 1 as it appeared to cater well to communities of interest, used strong boundaries, and was forecast to adhere to the +/-10% requirement the longest. All wards apart from Noble Park North Ward would have been adjusted in this model. In the south, Dandenong Ward would have increased in size and captured the entire green wedge area across Keysborough, Bangholme and Lyndhurst and also most of the industrial area in Dandenong South. The structure also addressed growth experienced in the Keysborough area, giving the Keysborough area south of Dandenong Bypass discrete representation. Overall, Model 1 would have impacted 11,619 (11.2%) voters within the council area, based on current voter numbers for the council.

Model 2

Model 2 was chosen for public consultation due to its relative similarity to the current ward boundary structure, with the boundaries of 4 wards in the centre and north-west remaining unchanged. Growth in voter numbers in the western part of the area would be accommodated by shifting the 3 western wards south. This rebalanced growth in the Keysborough area and would allow the middle wards along the rail corridor to gain voter numbers to address a projected shortfall. The major point of difference compared to Model 1 was the structure of

wards in the south of the council. In Model 2, most of the green wedge area found in Keysborough and Bangholme was separated from the industrial area of Dandenong South into separate wards. Overall, Model 2 would shift 11,092 (10.7%) current electors and therefore impact fewer voters than in Model 1.

Response submissions

The VEC received 213 response submissions to the preliminary report from the public by the deadline of 5 pm on Wednesday 20 March 2024. You can find a list of people or organisations who made a response submission in [Appendix 2](#).

The table below provides an overview of preferences in response submissions. You can read an analysis of submissions below this table.

Table 1: Preferences expressed in response submissions			
Model 1	Model 2	No preferred model indicated	Other
1*	208	1	3

*This submission supported elements of Model 2.

An overwhelming majority of submissions (208 out of 213) were in favour of Model 2, 194 of which were form letters of one variety or another.

One submission was in favour of Model 1 (with qualifications), while another did not express preference for either model. An additional 3 submissions raised issues outside the scope of the ward boundary review.

Greater Dandenong City Council provided a submission, that while not expressing a preference for any of the preliminary models, was opposed to combining green wedge and industrial land in the same ward as per Model 1. It argued that this would cause significant competing and conflicting priorities for the councillor elected to such a ward.

Model 1

One submission partially supported Model 1, stating that the ward adjustments would better cater to communities of interest. The same submitter was critical of the boundaries around Yarraman and Dandenong wards in Model 2, and suggested the Hemming Street shopping centre should be included in Yarraman Ward as appeared in Model 1. Other submissions expressed support for the split of the Springvale area as in Model 1, but generally preferred overall boundary adjustments proposed in Model 2.

While some support was present for elements of Model 1, in general, any support was far outweighed by criticisms of the adjustments proposed for the south of the council area.

Model 2

An overwhelming majority of submissions supported Model 2, with the vast amount of these being form submissions. Most of the form submissions originated from the Willow Lodge Village Residents' Association, which represents the interests of the nearly 500 residents who live in the retirement community found on the edge of green wedge land in eastern Bangholme, bordering the Dandenong South industrial area. Their submissions noted that they had previously fought off attempts to rezone green wedge land around their community, therefore the key issue for residents of Willow Lodge Village was the proposed adjustments to the Bangholme and Dandenong South areas found in Model 2. These submitters, as well as submissions from other stakeholders, found the ward adjustments in Model 2, which kept the green wedge and industrial area separated, would be preferable to adjustments that combined them in Model 1. It was also argued that the arrangement in Model 2 would mitigate any conflict of interest between the industrial and green wedge communities for the councillors elected to those wards.

Other arguments noted that Model 2 was more closely aligned to the current model than Model 1, potentially providing continuity and familiarity to electors. Several submissions expressed support for the split of wards in the Springvale area in Model 2, stating that it better aligned with community expectations and use of the area.

While supporting the overall model, a handful of submissions were critical of elements of Model 2, most of which preferred the ward boundaries proposed in Model 1 for the Springvale area or for the division between Dandenong and Yarraman wards.

Public hearing

The VEC held an online public hearing for those wishing to speak about their response submission at 10 am on Wednesday 27 March 2024. Three people spoke at the hearing.

You can find a list of people who spoke at the hearing in [Appendix 2](#). All 3 speakers spoke in favour of Model 2.

Former Greater Dandenong City Council councillor Matthew Kirwan stated they were well placed to understand the needs of the community they had recently represented and expressed support for the proposed boundaries of Model 2, particularly around the Springvale area. Kirwan argued that if the area needed to be divided into wards, it was better to be divided north-south rather than east-west, as such a divide better aligned with community use of the area.

Kirwan was particularly critical of the southern ward proposed in Model 1, arguing that combining the green wedge areas of Keysborough South and Bangholme with the Dandenong South industrial area and Dandenong activity centre would be a poor outcome for the relevant communities in the area. They further suggested that such a large ward would create an unfair workload for the councillor elected to represent voters in the ward, and possibly present a conflict between what they described as highly dissimilar communities of interest.

Kirwan identified the only benefit of Model 1 to be the division of the Dandenong area around the border of Yarraman and Dandenong ward. While he asked the VEC to consider tweaking the boundaries, Kirwan affirmed that if this was not possible then Model 2 was still strongly preferred.

Responding to whether the Lyndhurst green wedge area should be included in Keysborough South Ward as in Model 2, Kirwan expressed support for all green wedge areas being included in the same ward.

Carmel Perkins, representing the Willow Lodge Village Residents' Association, was strongly opposed to Model 1. As Secretary of Willow Lodge Village Residents' Association, Perkins led the form letter campaign to support keeping green wedge and industrial zoning in separate wards. As a spokesperson for their community, Perkins spoke of the anxiety residents faced when thinking about the potential for rezoning to occur in and around residential land. While Perkins acknowledged the proposed boundary adjustments in Model 1 would not be able to rezone the area, it was suggested residents were concerned there would be a higher probability that such a rezoning might occur under the wards proposed in Model 1.

Perkins further stated that Willow Lodge and Keysborough South areas are similar because both are residential areas and when asked, expressed support for the Lyndhurst green wedge area to be included in Keysborough South Ward in Model 2.

Current councillor for Keysborough South Ward, Rhonda Garad, echoed the previous speakers support of Model 2, arguing that as a councillor they were well placed to understand the issues posed by the proposed ward adjustments in Model 1. Garad noted that placing the green wedge zone in a ward with the industrial area would have unintended consequences for the advocacy and stewardship of the green wedge area. It was suggested that for any councillor elected to such a ward, there would be a conflict between the priorities of the people living in the green wedge area and those in industrial area.

When asked, Councillor Garad expressed support for the green wedge area of Lyndhurst to be included in Keysborough South Ward in Model 2 and chose not to comment on any other areas of the council.

Findings and recommendation

As outlined in the submission guide for this review, the VEC is committed to the principle of ‘one vote, one value’, which is a requirement for subdivided electoral structures under the Act. This is to ensure that every person’s vote counts equally. When undertaking a ward boundary review, the VEC must adhere to the Act’s legislated equality requirement to seek to ensure the number of voters per councillor in a ward is within +/-10% of the average number of voters per councillor for all wards in the council area.

The recommended model

After considering the models presented in the preliminary report, the requirements of the Act and public submissions, the VEC has chosen to put forward Model 2, with minor adjustments, as the VEC’s recommended model.

The recommended model was chosen due to its relative similarity to the current ward boundary structure, including that the boundaries of 4 wards in the centre and north-west remained unchanged, and because it affected the least number of voters. The VEC carefully considered public feedback presented throughout the consultation process and acknowledged strong support for keeping the green wedge and industrial areas of the council in different wards where possible.

After modelling various options, minor additional adjustments have been made to the boundary between the Keysborough South and Dandenong wards in Model 2:

- The green wedge area of Lyndhurst to the south of Glasscocks Road is included in Keysborough South Ward; and
- a minor adjustment between Dandenong Ward and Keysborough South Ward to shift the boundary slightly south from Bangholme Road to Eumemmerring Creek. This brings the industrial area north of the creek into Dandenong Ward and unites the green wedge area and caravan park south of the creek in Keysborough Ward.

These adjustments respond to concerns raised in public feedback and better align the boundaries of each ward with expected land use and communities of interest. A total of 23 electors would move from Dandenong Ward to Keysborough South Ward compared to preliminary Model 2 as a result of the adjustments. All other boundaries remain as presented in preliminary Model 2.

The VEC identifies the main strengths of the recommended structure as follows:

- It closely resembles the current structure, which has appeared to function well enough since adoption for the 2020 election.
- Four of the proposed wards would stay identical to the current structure, potentially providing familiarity to the communities that these wards represent.
- The changes are considered minimal and are achieved by shifting the 3 western wards south to rebalance the growth occurring in the Keysborough area and allowing the

middle wards along the rail corridor to gain voter numbers to address a projected shortfall.

The VEC noted some drawbacks when compared to other proposed models, including that some adjustments resulted in some odd-shaped wards which, on balance, might not capture communities of interest as well as in Model 1. It was noted in public consultation that the division of Springvale in Model 1 might better align to community expectations and use of the area. A similar argument was noted regarding the area around the border of Dandenong and Yarraman wards. While the VEC explored making boundary adjustments to these areas, it was not possible to incorporate these adjustments into Model 2 while also adhering to the legislated +/-10% deviation requirement.

The VEC noted another potential drawback was the division of the Keysborough area between Keysborough Ward and Keysborough South Ward. The proposed Keysborough Ward is similar to the current ward, however the ward needed to incorporate a section of the newer residential area south of the Dandenong Bypass to adhere to the +/-10% deviation requirement. The VEC considered this to be a compromise when factoring in the large physical boundary presented by the Dandenong Bypass, and the differing housing stock found north and south of the Bypass. However, this boundary adjustment received little public feedback, and the VEC felt the trade-off to be acceptable on balance and in light of other more prominent issues expressed in the submissions.

Overall, the recommended model would impact a total of 11,125 (10.7%) voters, based on current voter numbers for the council, which is fewer voters than would have been impacted under Model 1.

While the VEC acknowledges there are both potential benefits and drawbacks for this recommended model, it considers the boundary adjustments of this model to have the best potential to promote fair and equitable representation for voters in Greater Dandenong City Council while also complying with the requirements of the Act.

It should be noted that due to the high and variable population growth across the council area, and uncertainty around council-based entitlements due to legislative changes, it was necessary to set some current ward deviations outside +/-10% to increase the likelihood of ward deviations being within the +/-10% requirement at the time of the 2024 election. Despite best efforts, the VEC acknowledges that, due to the volatility of population growth as well as the uncertain impacts of changes to council voting entitlements under the Act, that there remains a risk that some wards may remain or move outside +/-10% by the time of the 2024 election.

The VEC's recommendation

The VEC recommends adjustments to the boundaries of the following wards within Greater Dandenong City Council:

- Dandenong Ward
- Keysborough Ward
- Keysborough South Ward
- Springvale Central Ward
- Springvale North Ward
- Springvale South Ward
- Yarraman Ward

The recommended adjustments were presented as Model 2 in the preliminary report, with some additional adjustments incorporated.

This recommendation is submitted to the Minister for Local Government as required by the Act.

Please see [Appendix 1](#) for detailed maps of the recommended ward boundaries.

References

ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) (2022a) [2021 Greater Dandenong, Census All persons QuickStats](#), ABS, accessed 6 February 2024.

— (2022b) [2011 Greater Dandenong, Census All persons QuickStats](#), ABS, accessed 6 February 2024.

— (2022c) [2021 Greater Melbourne, Census All persons QuickStats](#), ABS, accessed 6 February 2024.

— (2022d) [2021 Victoria Census All persons QuickStats](#), ABS , accessed 6 February 2024.

— (2023) [Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas \(SEIFA\), Australia, Suburbs and Localities, Indexes, SEIFA 2021](#), ABS, accessed 14 February 2023.

ACHRIS (Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register and Information System), [ACHRIS](#), Aboriginal Victoria, accessed 6 February 2024.

DTP (Department of Transport and Planning) (2024) [Greater Dandenong planning scheme](#), DTP, accessed 6 February 2024.

Electoral Act 2002 (Vic)

Local Government Act 1989 (Vic)

Local Government Act 2020 (Vic)

Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020 (Vic)

REMPPLAN (2024) [Greater Dandenong Community](#), REMPLAN, accessed February 6 2024.

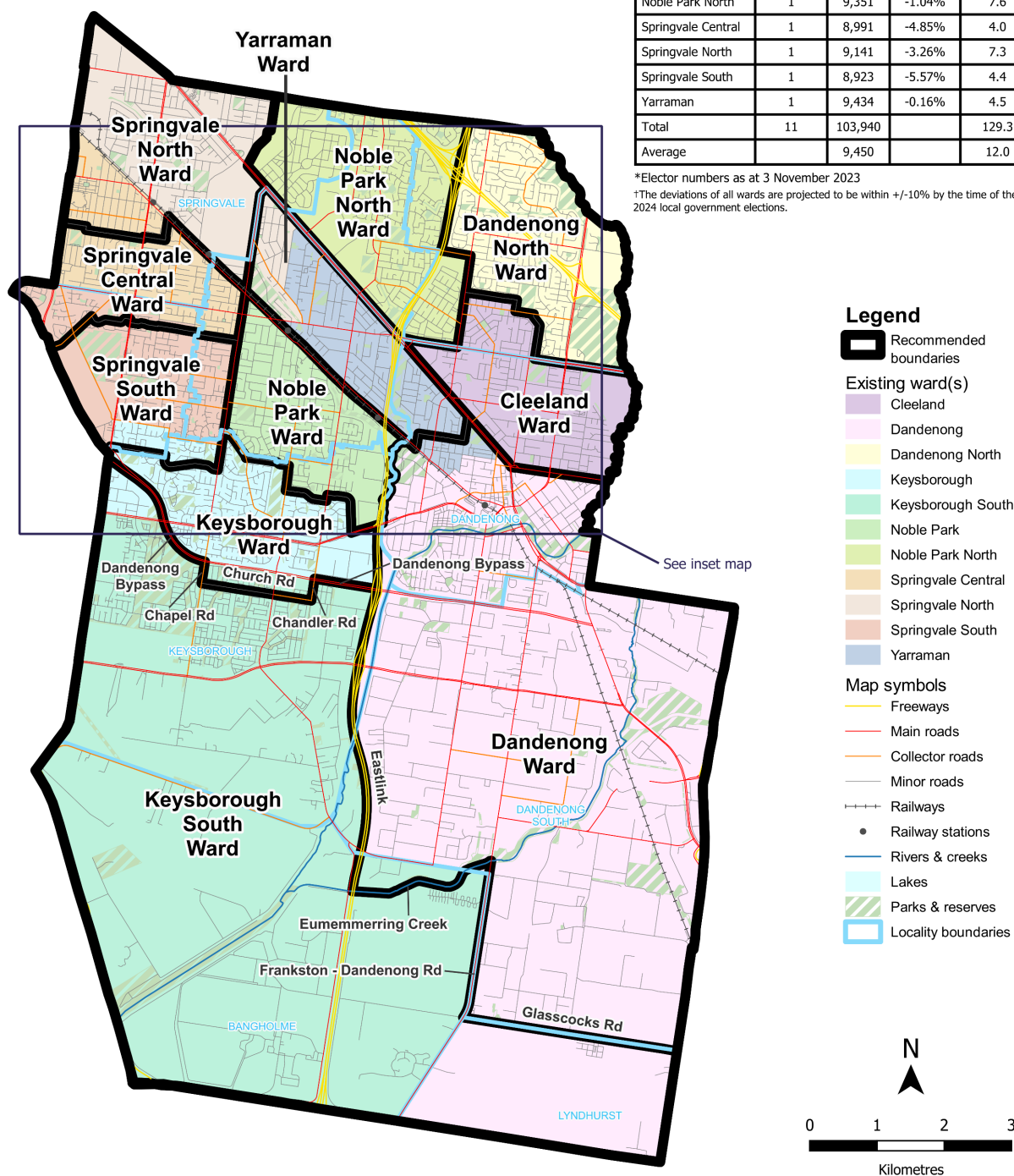
Appendix 1: Map of recommended model

Greater Dandenong City Council Recommended model

Ward	Councillors	Electors*	Deviation†	Area sq km
Cleeland	1	9,401	-0.51%	5.0
Dandenong	1	10,267	+8.66%	36.2
Dandenong North	1	9,565	+1.23%	6.4
Keysborough	1	9,464	+0.16%	5.2
Keysborough South	1	9,528	+0.84%	44.0
Noble Park	1	9,875	+4.51%	4.7
Noble Park North	1	9,351	-1.04%	7.6
Springvale Central	1	8,991	-4.85%	4.0
Springvale North	1	9,141	-3.26%	7.3
Springvale South	1	8,923	-5.57%	4.4
Yarraman	1	9,434	-0.16%	4.5
Total	11	103,940		129.3
Average		9,450		12.0

*Electors numbers as at 3 November 2023

†The deviations of all wards are projected to be within +/-10% by the time of the 2024 local government elections.



Map prepared by:

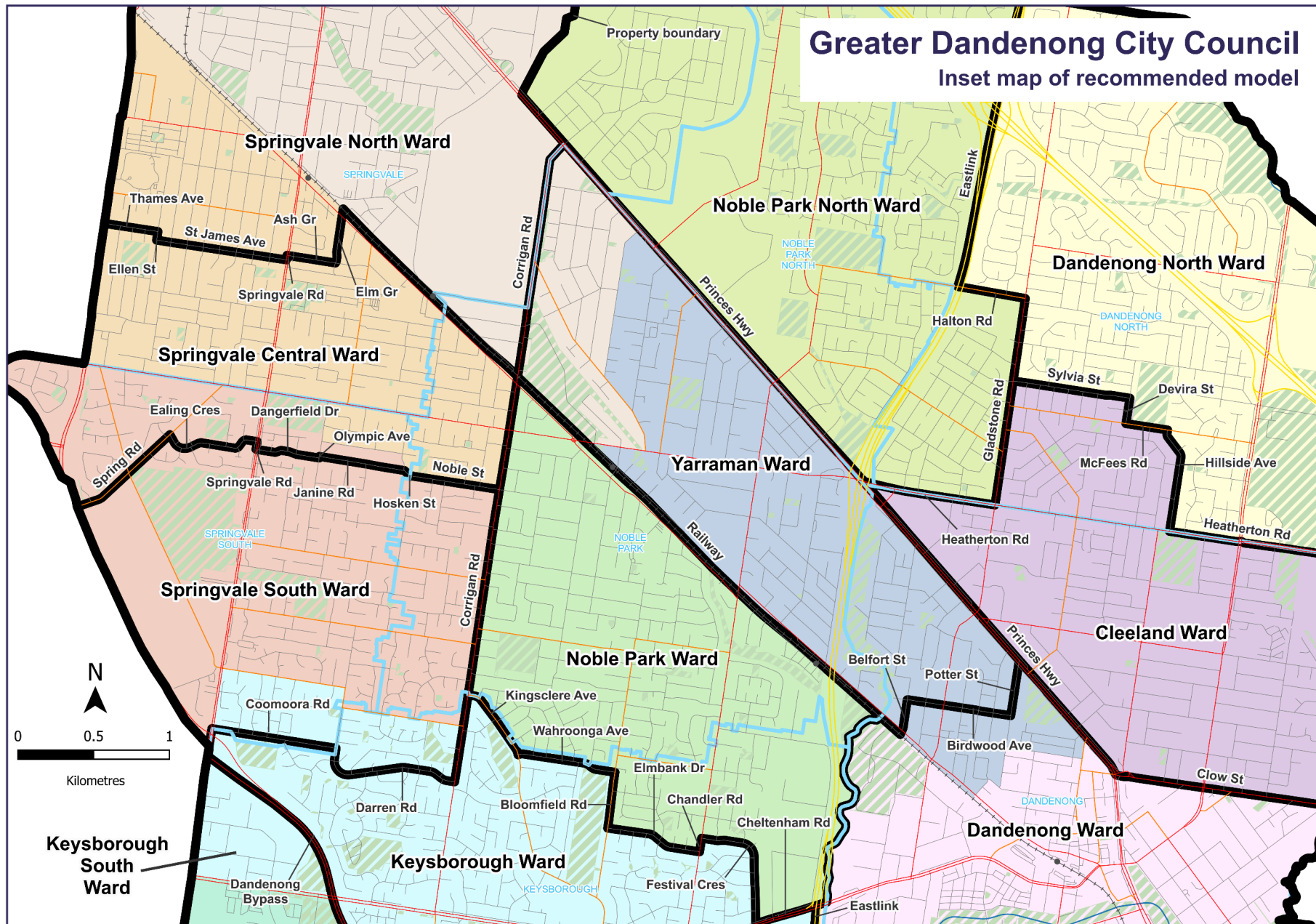


Data use:



Layers for alignment:
© State of Victoria (Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action)

Disclaimer: This content is provided for information purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and authenticity of the content, the Victorian government does not accept any liability to any person for the information provided.



Data for recommended model

Ward	Electors*	Deviation†	Area# (square km)
Cleeland	9,401	-0.51%	5.0
Dandenong	10,267	+8.66%	36.2
Dandenong North	9,565	+1.23%	6.4
Keysborough	9,464	+0.16%	5.2
Keysborough South	9,528	+0.84%	44.0
Noble Park	9,875	+4.51%	4.7
Noble Park North	9,351	-1.04%	7.6
Springvale Central	8,991	-4.85%	4.0
Springvale North	9,141	-3.26%	7.3
Springvale South	8,923	-5.57%	4.4
Yarraman	9,434	-0.16%	4.5
Total	103,940	n/a	129.3
Average	9,450	n/a	12.0

* Elector numbers at 3 November 2023.

† The deviations of all wards are projected to be within +/-10% at the time of the 2024 local council elections.

Ward area (square km) and total council area is measured at a level of accuracy required for electoral boundaries. This may vary slightly from other data sources (e.g. ABS).

Appendix 2: Public involvement

The VEC wishes to thank all submitters to the review and speakers at the public hearing for their participation in the review process.

Response submissions

Response submissions were made by:

Barton, Robert	Hood, Alan	O'Loughlin, Peter
Breskin, Alex	Jaber, Hani	Parfrey, Alex
Dao, Khoa	Kirwan, Matthew	Parfrey, Ruth and Bernard
Defenders of the South East Green Wedge Inc.	Lord, Alisa	Perry, Hayley
Do, Isabella	Louis, Heather	Scott, Elizabeth
Earl, Brian and Nina	Mantel, M	Sise, Judith
Finlay, Tanisha	Milkovic, Bojan	Sloan, Emily
Garad, Rhonda (Councillor, Greater Dandenong City Council)	Mohl, Zoe	Willoughby, Louisa
Greater Dandenong City Council	Murden, Donna and Robert	Willow Lodge Village Residents' Association Inc.
Green, Vicki	Nash, Isabella	Zygorodimos, Benjamin
	Naylor, Pam	

Signatories to form letter from Willow Lodge Village Residents' Association Inc:

Adelberg, Lyn	Barna, Paul	Boorsayia, Jack
Aitken, Lola	Barna, Thelma	Booth, Ken
Allan, Eva	Barthelson, Douglas	Box, Russell
Anglin, Mark	Barthelson, Kathleen	Brooks, Nola
Anstis, Philip	Beard, Christine	Brown, Ken
Ash, Carol and Derek	Berens, Frank	Brownett, Noeleen
Atwell, Maureen	Berens, Margaret	Bugeja, Felix
Baker, Ray	Bjorksten, Marion	Cabdal, Godfrey and Collen
Baker, Wendy	Bonney, Glenyce	Caird, Grahame

Caird, Jeanne	Duckworth, David	Khoury, Violet
Campbell, Shirley	Elizabeth, Ailsa	Lacey, Gary
Cargill, John	Elsworth, Kathleen	Lacey, Maria
Carlton, Catherine	English, Peter	Langsford, Mary
Carruth, Kerry	Eustace, Maureen	Lawless, Brenda
Carruth, William	Feeney, Brenda	Le Fevre, Peter
Clarke, Carole	Fishlock, Beryl	Leanne, Bennett
Clarke, Janet	Fishlock, Daryl	Lewis, David
Clarke, Janet	Fox, Helen	Lewis, June
Clarke, Warwick	Frances, Jean	Lewis, Paul
Collins, Brian	Frazer, Janice	Lind, Geoffrey and Rosalie
Collins, Gary	Freeman, Carol	Lloyd, Brendan
Collins, Glenda	Govey, Dawn	Loriman, Kath
Cope, Noel	Gracie, Tom	Maatman, Belinda
Coram, Ann	Greatorrex, Valerie	Mafi, Hermina
Courtman, Gordon and Yvonne	Grierson, Valma	Malensek, Ivan
Culhbertson, Wendy	Gunst, Bruce	Marshall, Kerrie
Dalton, Patricia	Haidon, Lauren	McCallum, Denise
Dattolino, Anthony	Hansen, Beverley	McGill, Cheryl
David, Perkin	Hansen, Thelma	McGrath, Susan
Davies, Steven	Harper, Steve	Meijer, Reinder
Davies, Tim	Harry, Lisa	Meyers, Dale
Davis, Mary	Heard, Dorothy	Moss, Michael
Deering, Theresa	Heenan, Diane	Mugridge, Glenn
Degilio, Ann	Helton, Glynis	Murray, Stephen
Degrassi, Eva	Hudson, Christina	Mygridge, Glenn
Dinn, Robert	Hulland, Sydney	Nakan, Kim
Donen, Anthea	Hunter, Don	Neenan, Bryan
Downward, Faye	Jaeger, Ivars	Neenan, Maureen
Downward, Lawrence	Jasinski, John	O'Connell, Christine
Duckworth, Barbara	Keeble, Betty	O'Connell, John

Olver, Helen	Reker, Heinz and Leslee	Strong, Frederick and Daphne
O'Reilly, Ingrid	Reynolds, Bruce	Tandy, Jan
Papettas, Denise	Reynolds, Rosalie	Taylor, Arthur
Paszkowski, Heather	Rigby, Bruce	Taylor, Marilyn
Paterson, Alan	Robbins, Marie	Tibbalis, Vicki
Paterson, Margaret	Robertson, Carol and Alan	Twikler, Harry
Payne, Margret	Robinson, John	Twikler, Janet
Payne, Nathan	Salanitri, John	Tyson, Valerie
Perkins, Carmel	Sali, Tony	Van Lambaart, Helen
Pik, Elisa	Sanderson, Jeff	Walker, Norma
Pinfold, Margaret	Sanderson, Kay	Wawrzycki, Cheryl
Pollard, Aileen	Scott, Elizabeth	Weldon, Lindsay
Porter, Helen	Semmens, Richard	Wheeldon, Ian
Potter, Diane	Smart, Kay	Wilken, Gaye
Potter, Jason	Smith, Rhonda	Wilken, Lance
Potter, Leonerd	Smith, Robert	Williams, Wendy
Potter, Ronald	Solomon, Dianne	Wilson, Gordon
Quaife, Lyn	Stephenson, Helen	Wilson, Yvonne
Ramsay, Graeme	Stone, Sue	Wood, Frances
Ramsay, Wayne	Stoneham, L	Woolcraft, Carol
Read, Denise and Terry		Zimmer, Julie

Public hearing

The following people spoke at the public hearing:

Kirwin, Matthew

Carmel, Perkins (on behalf of Willow Lodge Village Residents' Association)

Garad, Rhonda (Councillor, Greater Dandenong City Council)

Forecast information referred to in the text of this report is based on forecasts prepared by .id – informed decisions [id.com.au](https://www.id.com.au). .id and its licensors are the sole and exclusive owners of all rights, title and interest subsisting in that part of the report content where .id are identified. Some of .id content is a derivative of ABS Data, which can be accessed from the website of the Australian Bureau of Statistics at [abs.gov.au](https://www.abs.gov.au), and licensed on terms published on the ABS website.

