

Local council electoral structure review

# Final Report

Latrobe City Council

September 2023

### Acknowledgement of Country

The electoral representation advisory panel acknowledges the Braiakaulung people as the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters for which it held this review and pays respects to ancestors and Elders past, present and emerging. The panel acknowledges their custodianship for many thousands of years and their continuing living culture.

### Report approval

Version	Date approved	Approved by
1	29 August 2023	Ms Julie Eisenbise
1	29 August 2023	Mr Tim Presnell
1	29 August 2023	Ms Dana Fleming

### Version approval:

Version	Date approved	Approved by	Brief description
1	1 September 2023	Program Sponsor	Final proofread and confirmed to be sent

# Contents

<b>Executive summary</b> .....	<b>4</b>
Recommendation .....	4
<b>Summary of approach</b> .....	<b>5</b>
Developing electoral structure models .....	5
Preliminary report.....	5
Response submissions .....	5
Public hearing .....	5
<b>Background</b> .....	<b>6</b>
About the 2023–24 electoral structure reviews.....	6
The electoral representation advisory panel.....	6
Public engagement .....	6
Developing recommendations.....	7
<b>About Latrobe City Council</b> .....	<b>11</b>
Profile .....	11
Current number of councillors and electoral structure .....	12
Last electoral structure review.....	13
<b>Preliminary report</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>Response submissions</b> .....	<b>15</b>
<b>Public hearing</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>Findings and recommendation</b> .....	<b>17</b>
Number of councillors .....	17
Electoral structure .....	17
Ward names .....	20
The panel’s recommendation .....	20
<b>References</b> .....	<b>21</b>
<b>Appendix 1: Map of recommended structure</b> .....	<b>22</b>
<b>Appendix 2: Public involvement</b> .....	<b>26</b>
Response submissions .....	26

## Executive summary

An independent electoral structure review panel appointed by the Minister for Local Government has reviewed the electoral structure of Latrobe City Council.

The purpose of the review was to advise the Minister on the appropriate number of councillors and electoral structure, including ward names, for the council.

Under Victoria's *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), Latrobe City Council must now have a single-councillor ward electoral structure.

The panel looked at:

- the appropriate number of councillors and wards for the council
- the location of ward boundaries
- appropriate ward names.

This report presents the panel's final advice to the Minister on the recommended new electoral structure of Latrobe City Council to meet the requirements of the Act.

More information about the background to the review is available on [page 6](#).

## Recommendation

The electoral representation advisory panel recommends that Latrobe City Council adopt a 9 single-councillor ward structure – 9 wards with one councillor per ward.

The recommended names for the 9 wards in this electoral structure are Boola Boola, Budgerie, Jeeralang, Loy Yang, Moe, Morwell River, Newborough, Tyers, and Yallourn.

This advice is submitted to the Minister for Local Government as required by the Terms of Reference of the electoral representation advisory panel and the Act.

A detailed map of the boundaries for the recommended electoral structure is provided as [Appendix 1](#).

## Summary of approach

### Developing electoral structure models

The panel considered a range of factors when deciding on its final recommendation including:

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

More information on the way the panel decided on the models is available on [page 7](#).

### Preliminary report

The panel published a preliminary report on Wednesday 12 July 2023 with the following electoral structure models for public consultation:

- Model 1: a subdivided electoral structure with a total of 9 councillors – 9 wards with one councillor per ward.
- Model 2: a subdivided electoral structure with a total of 9 councillors – 9 wards with one councillor per ward, with different ward boundaries to Model 1.

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

### Response submissions

The panel received one submission responding to the preliminary report. No mapped submissions were received.

A full analysis of response submissions received can be found on [page 15](#).

### Public hearing

An online public hearing for those wishing to speak about their response submission was scheduled for 2 pm on Tuesday 8 August 2023. As no submitters asked to speak, the hearing did not go ahead.

## Background

### About the 2023–24 electoral structure reviews

In October 2022, the Minister for Local Government formed 2 electoral representation advisory panels to review and provide advice on the electoral structures of 39 local councils, under section 16 of the Act. If the Minister accepts the electoral structure recommended by the panel, any changes will take effect at the October 2024 local council elections.

The Act introduced several changes to local government representation, including the types of electoral structures local councils may have. All metropolitan, interface and regional city councils (including Latrobe City Council) must now have single-councillor ward electoral structures.

For Latrobe City Council, the electoral representation advisory panel examined:

- the number of councillors and wards
- where the ward boundaries should be
- the names of each ward.

The Act requires electoral structures to provide fair and equitable representation and facilitate good governance. Each ward must have an approximately equal number of voters per councillor (within +/-10% of the average). While conducting the review, the panel also noted the role of a councillor as specified under section 28 of the Act.

### The electoral representation advisory panel

The panel that conducted the electoral structure review of Latrobe City Council had 3 members:

- Ms Julie Eisenbise (Chairperson)
- Mr Tim Presnell
- Acting Electoral Commissioner Ms Dana Fleming.

The purpose of the review is to advise the Minister on the appropriate number of councillors and electoral structure, including ward names, for the council. The panel is independent of councils and the Victorian State government.

Under the Act, the VEC is not responsible for reviewing council electoral structures but must provide administrative and technical support to the panel. The Electoral Commissioner (or their delegate) must be a member of each panel.

## Public engagement

### Public information program

On behalf of the panel, the VEC conducted a public information and awareness program to inform the public about the Latrobe City Council electoral structure review. This included:

- public notices in state-wide newspapers

- public information sessions to outline the review process and respond to questions from the community
- media releases announcing the start of the review and the release of the preliminary report
- information on social media channels
- updated website content on [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au), including:
  - current information on the review process
  - submission guide and fact sheets for each council under review with background information
  - response submissions from the public.

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

- targeted social media advertisements in the council area
- notifying voters in the council area subscribed to the VEC's VoterAlert service about the start of the review and release of the preliminary report.

### **Public consultation**

The panel encouraged public input to the review of Latrobe City Council via:

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

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

## **Developing recommendations**

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

- research and analysis conducted by the VEC support team, including geospatial 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)
- input received during public consultation.

### **Deciding on the number of councillors**

The Act allows local councils to have between 5 and 12 councillors, but neither the Act nor the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020 specify how the number of councillors is to be determined. As such, the recommendation put forward by the panel in this report is guided by the Act's intention for fairness and equity in voter representation and the consequent facilitation of good governance.

In examining the appropriate number of councillors for Latrobe City Council, the panel considered the following criteria:

- the population and number of voters in the council area, compared to other councils with a similar population size and number of voters in the same category (for example, other comparable metropolitan, interface and regional city councils)
- patterns of population change and voter growth or decline in the council area over time
- the current and past numbers of councillors
- the representation needs of communities of interest in the council area
- any matter raised in public submissions not already listed above.

Local councils with a larger number of voters will often have more councillors. Large populations generally have greater diversity, both in the type and number of communities of interest and issues relating to representation. However, the ideal number of councillors can also be influenced by the circumstances of each council, such as the:

- nature and complexity of services the council provides
- geographic size and topography of the area
- forecast population and voter growth or decline
- social diversity.

### **Deciding the electoral structure**

Under the Act, regional city, metropolitan and interface councils must now have single-councillor ward electoral structures.

When developing single-councillor ward models for Latrobe City Council, the panel considered these criteria:

- whether the structure would comply with section 15(2) of the Act (see below), and for how long it would likely comply
- the appropriate number of councillors, as outlined above
- 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
- past elections for the council, including:
  - numbers of candidates nominating
  - incidences of uncontested elections
  - rates of informal voting.
- 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 in each ward. 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.

During this review, the panel aimed to recommend a structure that would 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 was conducted. The panel 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 mean it is not possible to create compliant subdivided structures based both on voter numbers that were current at the time of the review and forecast voter numbers. In these instances, the panel prioritised compliance at the 2024 local government elections to ensure each vote will have approximately equal value at the 2024 election.

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 voters. 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 panel took this change to the makeup of voters' rolls, and therefore compliance with section 15(2) of the Act, into consideration during this review.

### **Deciding on ward names**

The panel has taken the following approach to naming wards.

1. Retaining existing ward names if these were still relevant to the area covered by the ward.
2. When a new name was required, the panel based this on features such as:
  - places (registered under the *Geographic Place Names Act 1998*) in the ward
  - compass directions
  - native flora or fauna.

### **Use of Aboriginal language**

The panel recognises that there should first be meaningful consultation with local Aboriginal communities and groups before a ward is named using Aboriginal language. Meaningful consultation is a significant process that the panel was not able to undertake within the timeframes of the current review program.

The panel also recognises that many of the place names in current use across Victoria are based on Aboriginal language. As such, the panel has only put forward new ward names using Aboriginal language if:

- it is the name of a place within a ward

- it is currently in common use

and

- the name is registered under the *Geographic Place Names Act 1998*.

Unregistered names using Aboriginal language have not been put forward by the panel as new ward names. While the panel supports the adoption of names based on Aboriginal language, this requires appropriate consultation.

Accordingly, for the panel to consider an Aboriginal language ward name that is suggested in a public submission to the review, the name submitted needs to comply with the above guidelines.

# About Latrobe City Council

## Profile

Latrobe City Council is located about 150 km east of Melbourne and is one of Victoria's major regional population and commercial centres. It shares its borders with Baw Baw Shire to the west, Wellington Shire to the east, and South Gippsland Shire to the south-west.

The Traditional Custodians of the land in Latrobe City Council are the Braiakaulung people.

## Landscape

Latrobe City Council encompasses a total land area of 1,426 km<sup>2</sup>, with the landscape ranging from the agricultural floodplains of the La Trobe River in the north, to the temperate rainforests of the Strzelecki Ranges in the south. Approximately 30% of the land covered by the council is used for plantation forests and a further 37% for livestock grazing and production (DAFF 2023).

The city is a major source of Victoria's electricity production and has one of the largest brown coal reserves in the world. It supports a large forestry industry and other businesses including Lion Dairy in Morwell and Federation University.

The population of Latrobe City Council at the 2021 Census was 77,318 (ABS 2022a), with over two-thirds residing in the 3 large urban centres of Traralgon, Morwell, and Moe. Tyers Park, Morwell National Park, and Traralgon South Flora and Fauna Reserve are some of the important geographical features in the council area. The Big Cigar is considered a 'must see' for visitors to the town of Churchill. The city's central location makes it a popular base to explore Gippsland's natural and heritage attractions, including Tarra-Bulga and Baw Baw national parks, and the historic mining town of Walhalla.

The Princes Freeway (M1) is the main east–west transport corridor, connecting communities across the Latrobe City Council area with Melbourne, as well as Sale, Bairnsdale, and Orbost. The Strzelecki Highway runs south from Morwell to Inverloch and Wonthaggi, and there is an hourly V/Line train service between Traralgon and Melbourne.

## Community

At the 2021 Census, Latrobe City Council's population had increased by 5.5% since 2016 (ABS 2022a, 2016). The population is expected to grow by 1.3% annually to about 81,000 by 2026. Much of this growth will occur in the towns of Traralgon, Morwell, Moe, and Newborough.

Residents had a median age of 42 years in 2021 – a slight increase on 2016, when it was 41 (ABS 2022a, 2016). The median age varies across the major towns of the council area – in Churchill it was 38 years in 2021, while in Moe it was 46 years.

In 2021, people born in Australia made up 79.4% of the population of the council area, and 86% spoke only English at home. These figures broadly reflected regional Victoria overall (81% and 86.4% respectively) (ABS 2022a, 2022b). Residents who identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander made up 2.1% of the city's population in 2021, also close to regional Victoria overall at 2% (ABS 2022a, 2022b).

The unemployment rate in the council area was 6.6% in 2021, which was much higher than the overall rate for regional Victoria of 4.1%. Participation in the labour force was 54.1% of the working-age population in 2021, with just over half working full time. Health care and social assistance (17%), retail (10.2%), and construction (9.9%) were the main industries of employment, with almost a third of all residents employed as technicians, trades workers, or professionals.

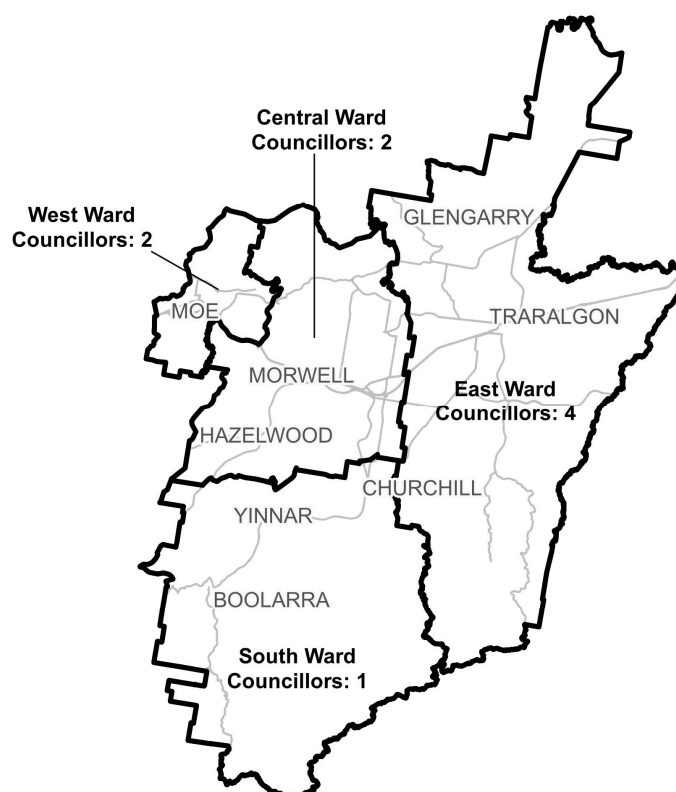
Home ownership was widespread in 2021, with 71.1% of residents owning a house outright or with a mortgage. About 25% of residents rented, which was slightly above the regional Victorian overall rate of 23.6% (ABS 2022a, 2022b).

The median weekly household income in Latrobe City Council was \$1,260 in 2021, compared to \$1,386 for regional Victoria overall (ABS 2022a, 2022b).

## Current number of councillors and electoral structure

Latrobe City Council is currently divided into 4 wards with a total of 9 councillors:

- one ward with 4 councillors (East)
- 2 wards with 2 councillors each (Central and West wards)
- one single-councillor ward (South).



**Figure 1:** Diagram of current electoral structure of Latrobe City Council.

There are an estimated 59,099 voters in Latrobe City Council, with an estimated ratio of 6,566 voters per councillor.

Visit the VEC website at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au) for more information on Latrobe City Council.

## **Last electoral structure review**

The VEC conducted an electoral representation review of Latrobe City Council in 2012. This 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 Latrobe City Council adopt a structure of 9 councillors elected from 4 wards (one ward with 4 councillors, 2 wards with 2 councillors each, and a single-councillor ward).

Visit the VEC website at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au) to access a copy of the 2012 representation review final report.

## Preliminary report

A preliminary report was released on Wednesday 12 July 2023. The panel considered research findings and the requirements of the Act when formulating the models presented in the preliminary report.

After careful consideration, the following electoral structure models were put forward for public consultation:

- Model 1: a subdivided electoral structure with a total of 9 councillors – 9 wards with one councillor per ward.
- Model 2: a subdivided electoral structure with a total of 9 councillors – 9 wards with one councillor per ward, with different ward boundaries to Model 1.

The full preliminary report is available on the VEC website at [vec.vic.gov.au](https://vec.vic.gov.au)

## Response submissions

The panel received one response submission to the preliminary report from the public by the deadline of 5 pm on Wednesday 2 August 2023. 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 (9 single-councillor wards)	Model 2 (9 single-councillor wards)	No preferred model indicated	Other
-	1	-	-

As part of the public information program, alerts were sent to 28,101 register voters in Latrobe City Council. A total of 43,583 messages (26,885 SMS alerts and 16,698 email alerts) were sent at the start of the preliminary report public consultation period. However, only one response submission was received.

### Model 1

While no response submissions were received in support of Model 1, the Morwell Branch of the Australian Labor Party (ALP) noted some of its members preferred the ward names proposed under this model.

### Model 2

The Morwell Branch of the ALP supported Model 2, noting its submission was a summary of contributions made by branch members located in the state district of Morwell. The submission generally favoured a structure of 9 councillors, though some members felt an increase to 11 would allow some of the smaller communities in the council area to have effective representation. While unanimous in its support for Model 2, some branch members commented that Models 1 and 2 appeared to have given little consideration to the ward structures in the western half of the council. It was suggested more consideration should have been directed to these areas of the council given the boundaries could be in place for the next 8 years.

The local branch submission also commented that many members were frustrated at the change in electoral structure. Members raised the point that the single-councillor ward structure in place prior to the 2012 representation review had resulted in a 'Traralgon-bias' in council decision-making.

## Public hearing

An online public hearing for those wishing to speak about their response submission was scheduled for 2 pm on 8 August 2023. As no submitters asked to speak, the hearing did not go ahead.



## Findings and recommendation

As outlined in the submission guide for this review, the panel 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 an electoral structure review, the panel must adhere to the Act's legislated equality requirement to seek to ensure the number of voters per councillor in a ward to be within +/-10% of the average number of voters per councillor in any other ward.

The equality requirement exists to support fair and equitable representation for all voters within a local council (and consequently facilitate good governance), which is a major aim of this review. All wards in a subdivided electoral structure recommended by the panel must aim to be within the legislated tolerance in time for the 2024 local council elections. The panel cannot make exceptions to legislated requirements.

### Number of councillors

After considering the requirements of the Act, public submissions and the agreed criteria, the panel found 9 councillors to be an appropriate number for Latrobe City Council.

The panel considered the characteristics of Latrobe City Council in relation to similar regional city councils, including its size and geography, population and the number and distribution of voters across the council area.

Latrobe City Council currently has around 59,099 voters represented by 9 councillors. The council area covers 1,426 km<sup>2</sup>, with an average of 6,566 voters per councillor. Other regional city councils with a similar number of voters usually also have 9 councillors, including Greater Shepparton City Council (46,959 voters) and Ballarat City Council (87,340 voters).

The ward structures proposed in both the preliminary report models aimed to ensure an evenly distributed workload for elected councillors, and as such a structure of 9 councillors was considered appropriate. Additionally, the projected rate of population growth across Latrobe City Council is consistent with similar councils, and while steady, is not at a level to justify increasing councillor numbers.

In some cases, a local council may have special circumstances that support a recommendation for fewer or more councillors. The panel did not identify any such circumstances impacting Latrobe City Council that could warrant an increase in councillor numbers. For these reasons, the panel determined that the number of councillors should remain at 9.

### Electoral structure

After considering the requirements of the Act, public submissions and the agreed criteria, the panel found Model 2 to be the single-councillor ward model with the best potential to promote fair and equitable representation for voters in Latrobe City Council and consequently facilitate good governance.

The panel considered the benefits and drawbacks of each model, including public feedback provided through submissions.

In developing the models presented in the preliminary report, the panel took a minimal-change approach by using the boundaries of the current electoral structure as much as possible to split the current 4 wards equally across 9 single-councillor wards. The panel also considered various options when dividing the major towns of Moe, Morwell and Traralgon.

The structure of the wards in the western half of the council was the same in Model 1 and Model 2, with the current wards totalling 5 councillors split into 5 single-councillor wards. The panel was able to create 5 single-councillor wards by:

- splitting the current 2-councillor West Ward to create the proposed Moe and Newborough wards
- dividing the 2-councillor Central Ward into the proposed Yallourn and Morwell River wards, with the boundary following the Princes Freeway, Strzelecki Highway, and several minor streets
- having the proposed Budgeree Ward mirror the boundaries and area (442 km<sup>2</sup>) of the current single-councillor South Ward.

The panel considered there to be no other more favourable options for dividing this part of the council area, and therefore considers the size and shape of the wards and the ward boundaries adopted to be appropriate for effective representation.

The division of the 4-councillor East Ward is where the 2 models differed. While both Model 1 and Model 2 saw the current large ward (629 km<sup>2</sup>) divided into 4 separate wards, the structure and flow of the wards differed in notable ways.

Model 1 had 2 southern wards (Loy Yang and Jeeralang) taking in large sections of rural and uninhabited land to the south. In the northern part, the Boola Boola Ward included the rural lands and towns above the La Trobe River, whereas the Wades Creek Ward captured a large section of Traralgon residential housing. The remainder of Traralgon was divided across:

- Loy Yang Ward: taking in much of the commercial and industrial zones.
- Boola Boola Ward: capturing established and new residential areas.
- Jeeralang Ward: encompassing the town centre, retail shopping precinct and residential areas south of Old Melbourne Road/Kay Street.

The panel had some reservations about the split of the current East Ward in Model 1, as it would result in the creation of 3 large wards (ranging from 169 km<sup>2</sup> to 230 km<sup>2</sup>), potentially creating an excessive workload for the councillors elected to represent these wards, and one significantly smaller ward focused mostly on urban areas of Traralgon. There were also concerns that the elongated Loy Yang and Jeeralang wards would not strike a good balance in terms of the mix of rural and urban areas.

As such, the panel was of the view that Model 2 split the current East Ward more evenly than Model 1, with the proposed wards running primarily in a horizontal rather than vertical direction. In addition, Model 2 delivered a more equitable division of Traralgon, with all 4 wards having urban and rural elements, spread in a spoke-like arrangement. More specifically, in favour of Model 2:

- the town's commercial and industrial zones are wholly captured in the northern Boola Boola Ward, with the panel noting this as a better outcome compared to the division of these zones in Model 1.
- the town centre is combined with the residential communities south of the railway line (Loy Yang Ward), providing a good reflection of key communities of interest.
- the residential communities to the west of central Traralgon are located in wards to the north and south of Traralgon West Road/Grey Street, again reflecting communities of interest quite well.

The panel noted there was little public feedback to the 2 models presented in the preliminary report, making the final decision on which model would best represent the communities of interest across the council area somewhat more difficult. As such, and according to the advantages of Model 2 listed above, the panel considered it divided this area of the council in a more balanced way than Model 1, providing four roughly equal wards by size and composition. The panel felt this would more likely provide fair and equitable representation to voters that under the current structure are all in the same ward.

The panel did note the challenge of creating a single-councillor ward structure for Latrobe City Council that both complies with the legislated +/-10% requirement and captures geographic communities of interest within wards. Due to the uneven distribution of the population across the council area, it is challenging for any single-councillor ward structure to comply with the +/-10% requirement beyond the 2024 local council elections.

While it is difficult to predict the number of candidates likely to stand at future elections, past election results provide some indication. The panel examined past election results for Latrobe City Council including numbers of candidates nominating, incidences of uncontested elections and rates of informal voting, and found there has been relatively strong candidate numbers across all wards. The panel assumes this trend will continue under a structure of 9 single-councillor wards, minimising the risk of uncontested or failed elections.

After taking into account communities of interest, councillor workloads and the boundaries used in each model, the panel considers Model 2 to be the single-councillor ward model with the best potential to promote fair and equitable representation for voters in Latrobe City Council and consequently facilitate good governance under the requirements of the Act.

## Ward names

The ward names for the panel's recommended electoral structure were based on the following:

- Boola Boola: Name based on a geographic feature in the ward. This name is registered in the VICNAMES register.
- Budgeree: Name based on a locality entirely in the ward. This name is registered in the VICNAMES register.
- Jeeralang: Put forward in a submission as an alternative name for Traralgon Creek Ward. Name based on a geographic feature in the ward. This name is registered in the VICNAMES register.
- Loy Yang: Put forward in a submission as an alternative name for Sheepwash Creek Ward. Name based on a locality entirely in the ward. This name is registered in the VICNAMES register.
- Moe: Name based on a locality with the majority in the ward. This name is registered in the VICNAMES register.
- Morwell River: Name based on a geographic feature in the ward. This name is registered in the VICNAMES register.
- Newborough: Name based on a locality with the majority in the ward. This name is registered in the VICNAMES register.
- Tyers: Put forward in a submission as an alternative name for Wades Creek Ward. Name based on a locality entirely in the ward. This name is registered in the VICNAMES register.
- Yallourn: Name based on a locality entirely in the ward. This name is registered in the VICNAMES register.

## The panel's recommendation

The electoral representation advisory panel recommends that Latrobe City Council adopt a 9 single-councillor ward structure – 9 wards with one councillor per ward.

The recommended names for the 9 wards in this electoral structure are Boola Boola, Budgeree, Jeeralang, Loy Yang, Moe, Morwell River, Newborough, Tyers, and Yallourn.

This advice is submitted to the Minister for Local Government as required by the Terms of Reference of the electoral representation advisory panel and the Act. This electoral structure was designated as Model 2 in the preliminary report.

A detailed map of the boundaries for the recommended electoral structure is provided as [Appendix 1](#).

## References

ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) (2022a) [2021 Census All Person QuickStats, Latrobe \(Vic\) \(LGA\)](#), ABS website, accessed 15 May 2023.

—(2022b) [2021 Census All Persons QuickStats, Rest of Vic](#), ABS website, accessed 15 May 2023.

—(2022c) [2021 Census All Persons QuickStats, Traralgon](#), ABS website, accessed 19 May 2023.

—(2022d) [2021 Census All Persons QuickStats, Morwell](#), ABS website, accessed 19 May 2023.

—(2022e) [2021 Census All Persons QuickStats, Moe](#), ABS website, accessed 19 May 2023.

—(2016) [2016 Census All Person QuickStats, Latrobe \(C\) \(Vic\) \(LGA\)](#), ABS website, accessed 15 May 2023.

—(2011) [2011 Census All Person QuickStats, Latrobe \(C\) \(LGA\)](#), ABS website, accessed 15 May 2023.

Latrobe City Council (2023) [Endorsed Development Plans \(DPs\) and Precinct Structure Plans \(PSPs\)](#), Latrobe City Council website, accessed 23 May 2023.

DAFF (Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) (2023) [Land use](#), DAFF website, accessed 30 May 2023.

Geographic Place Names Act 1998 (Vic)

.id (informed decisions) (2022) [Welcome to the Latrobe City Council Population Forecast](#), .id website, accessed 22 May 2023.

Local Government Act 1989 (Vic)

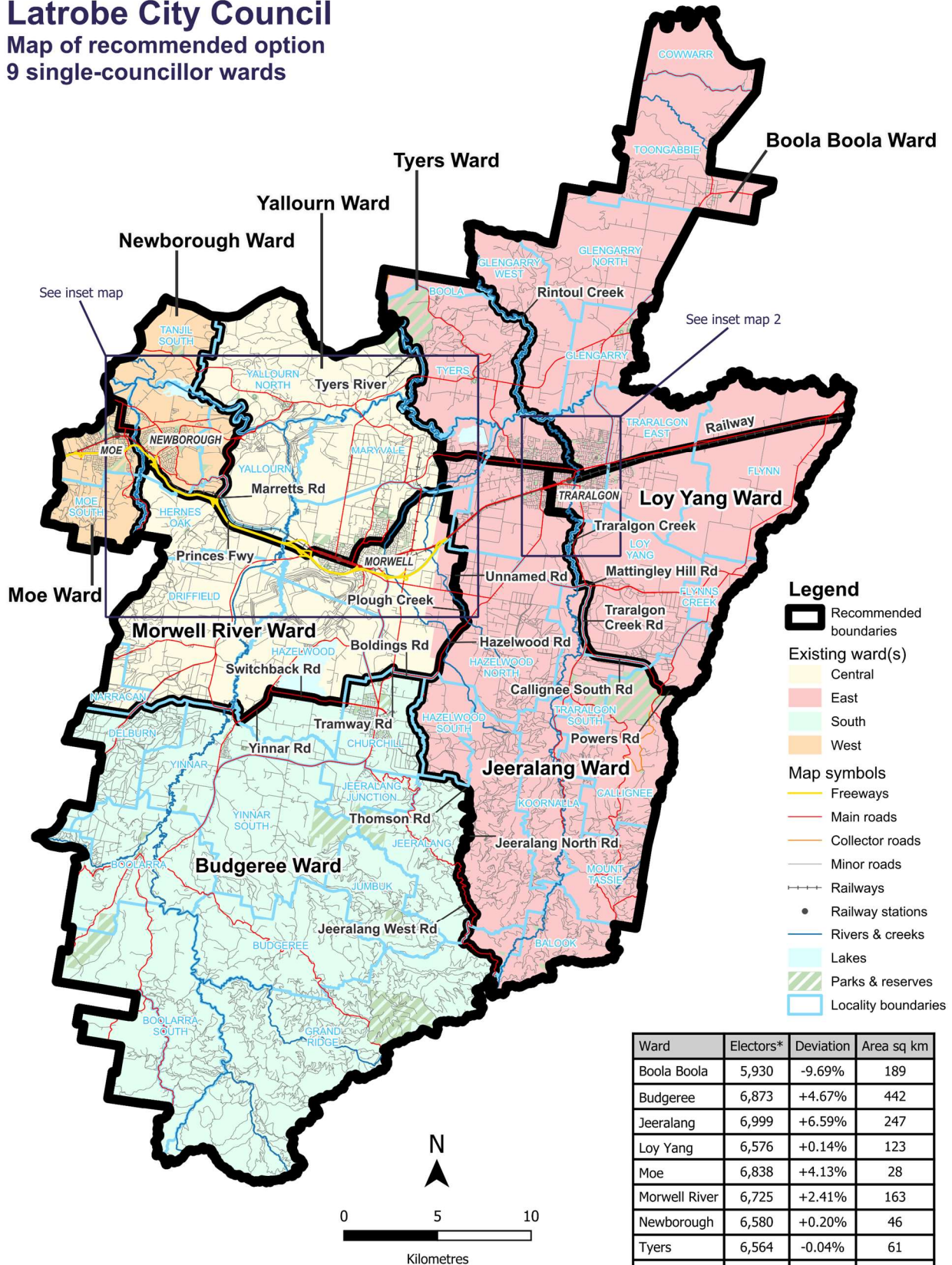
Local Government Act 2020 (Vic)

Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020 (Vic)

REMPPLAN (2022) [Latrobe City Economy, Jobs and Business Insights](#), REMPLAN website, accessed 18 May 2023.

# Appendix 1: Map of recommended structure

## Latrobe City Council Map of recommended option 9 single-councillor wards



Data use:



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

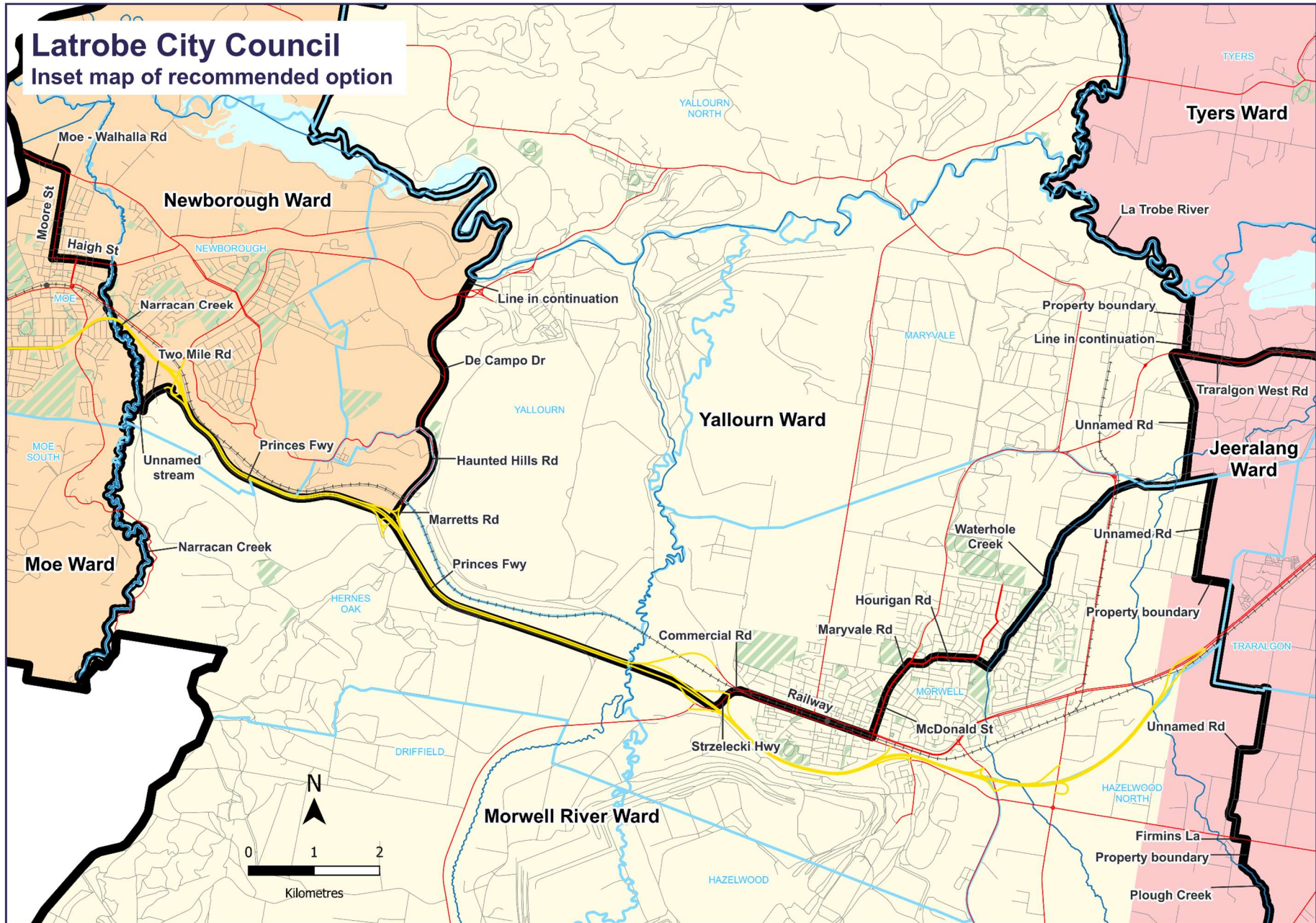
Disclaimer: This content is provided for information purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and authenticity of the content, the Victorian government does not accept any liability to any person for the information provided.

\*Electors numbers as at 30 March 2023

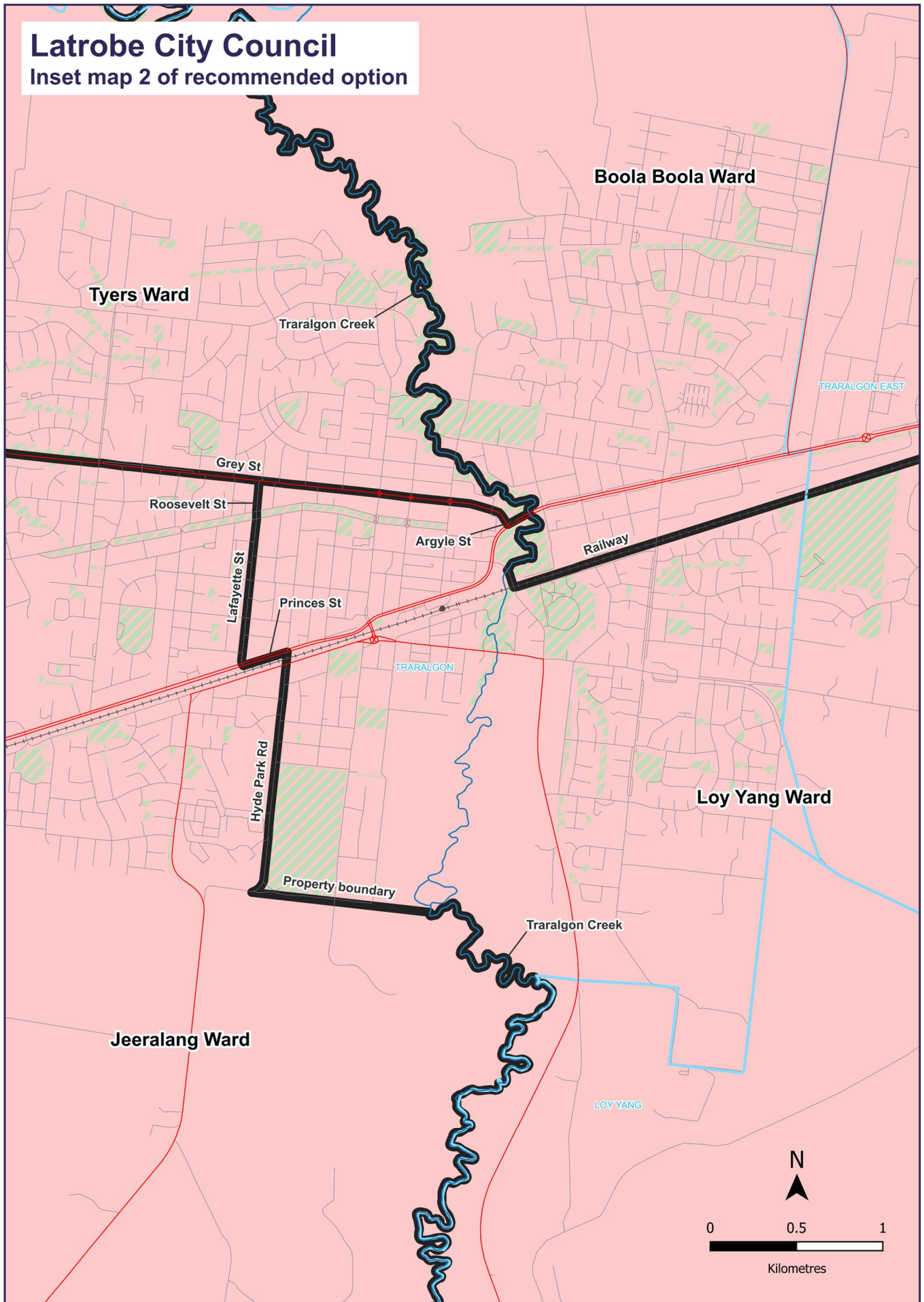
Ward	Electors*	Deviation	Area# (square km)
Boola Boola	5,930	-9.69%	189
Budgerree	6,873	+4.67%	442
Jeeralang	6,999	+6.59%	247
Loy Yang	6,576	+0.14%	123
Moe	6,838	+4.13%	28
Morwell River	6,725	+2.41%	163
Newborough	6,580	+0.20%	46
Tyers	6,564	-0.04%	61
Yallourn	6,014	-8.41%	125
<b>Total</b>	<b>59,099</b>	-	<b>1,424</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>6,567</b>	-	<b>158</b>

\*Elector numbers as at 30 March 2023

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







## **Appendix 2: Public involvement**

The panel wishes to thank all submitters to the review for their participation in the review process.

### **Response submissions**

Response submissions were made by:

Morwell Branch of the Australian Labor Party

Forecast information referred to in the text of this report is based on forecasts prepared by .id – informed decisions [id.com.au](http://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](http://abs.gov.au), and licensed on terms published on the ABS website.

