

Local council electoral structure review

Final Report

Mount Alexander Shire Council

May 2023

Revised July 2023

Acknowledgement of Country

The electoral representation advisory panel acknowledges the Dja Dja Wurrung 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 panel acknowledges their custodianship for many thousands of years and their continuing living culture.

Document history and version control

Version	Date approved	Submission approved by	Brief description
1	19 May 2023	Acting Electoral Commissioner	Final version
2	24 July 2023	Program Sponsor	Revised version with inclusion of good governance wording

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Executive summary

An independent electoral structure review panel appointed by the Minister for Local Government has reviewed the electoral structure of Mount Alexander Shire Council.

The purpose of the review is to advise the Minister on the appropriate number of councillors and electoral structure for the council.

The panel looked at:

- whether the council had an appropriate number of councillors
- whether it should be unsubdivided or subdivided
- appropriate ward names.

This report presents the panel's final advice to the Minister on the recommended new electoral structure of Mount Alexander Shire Council to meet the requirements of Victoria's *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

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

Recommendation

The electoral representation advisory panel recommends that Mount Alexander Shire adopt a single-councillor ward structure, with a total of 8 councillors, 8 wards and one councillor per ward.

The recommended names for the 8 wards in this electoral structure are: Barkers Creek Ward, Calder Ward, Campbells Creek Ward, Coliban Ward, Forest Creek Ward, Loddon River Ward, Moonlight Creek Ward and Tarrengower Ward.

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.

Please see [Appendix 1](#) for a detailed map of this recommended electoral structure.

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 submissions

The panel received 5 preliminary submissions. Of these, no submissions included maps.

A summary of the preliminary submissions is contained in the preliminary report, available on the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au

Preliminary report

The panel published a preliminary report on Wednesday 29 March 2023 with the following electoral structure models for public consultation:

- Model 1: an unsubdivided electoral structure with 7 councillors.
- Model 2: a subdivided electoral structure with a total of 8 councillors, 4 wards and 2 councillors per ward.
- Model 3: a subdivided electoral structure with a total of 8 councillors, 8 wards and one councillor per ward.

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

Response submissions

The panel received 19 submissions responding to the preliminary report. Of these, one submission included maps.

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

Public hearing

The panel held an online public hearing for those wishing to speak about their response submission at 2 pm on Thursday 27 April 2023. One person spoke at the hearing.

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 elections.

The Act introduced several changes to local government representation, including the types of electoral structures local councils may have. Large and small rural shire councils (including Mount Alexander Shire Council) can have one of 3 electoral structures:

- unsubdivided (entire council area with no wards)
- single-councillor wards
- multi-councillor wards with the same number of councillors per ward.

For Mount Alexander Shire Council, the electoral representation advisory panel examined:

- the number of councillors
- whether the council should be subdivided into wards or unsubdivided.

For subdivided structures, it also examined:

- the number of wards
- where the ward boundaries should be
- the names of each ward
- how many councillors should be elected for each ward.

The Act requires electoral structures to provide fair and equitable representation and facilitate good governance. For subdivided structures, 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 Mount Alexander Shire Council had 3 members:

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

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

To inform the public about the Mount Alexander Shire Council electoral structure review, the VEC supported a public information and awareness program, which included:

- printing public notices in state-wide newspapers
- holding public information sessions to outline the review process and respond to questions from the community
- sending out media releases announcing the start of the review and the release of the preliminary reports
- publishing information on social media channels
- regularly updating the VEC website content on vec.vic.gov.au, with:
 - current information on the review process
 - submission guides and fact sheets for each council under review with background information
 - preliminary and response submissions from the public.

Public consultation

The panel encouraged public input to the review of Mount Alexander Shire Council via:

- preliminary submissions at the start of the review
- 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 Mount Alexander Shire 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 rural shire 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
- whether a particular type of electoral structure requiring a certain number of councillors would best suit the council (see 'Deciding the electoral structure' below)
- any matter raised in public submissions not already listed above.

Generally, local councils with a larger number of voters will have a higher number of councillors. Large populations are often more likely to 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 particular circumstances of a 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

The electoral structure of large and small rural shire councils can be:

- unsubdivided (entire council area with no wards)
- made up of single-councillor wards
- or
- made up of multi-councillor wards with the same number of councillors per ward.

When developing electoral structure models for Mount Alexander Shire 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 can be established and whether these would be easily identifiable to local communities

- 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 any 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 government 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 always possible to create a subdivided structure that complies with section 15(2) based on voter numbers that were current at the time of the review as well as 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. Voters' rolls are a combination of state electors (making up the majority of a voters' roll) and a smaller number of ratepayer-based voting entitlements. The Act introduced changes to ratepayer-based entitlement categories, which come into full effect at the 2024 local government elections. As this will change the makeup of voters' rolls, and therefore compliance with section 15(2) of the Act, this is a consideration of the panel during this review.

Deciding on ward names

The panel has taken the following approach to naming wards.

1. Existing ward names were retained where possible and appropriate (if the name was still relevant to the area covered by a ward).
2. Where a new name was required, the panel based this on features such as:
 - places (registered under the *Geographic Place Names Act 1998*) located 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 be named using Aboriginal language. Meaningful consultation is a significant and important process which the panel is not able to undertake within the timeframes of the current review program.

At the same time, 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 in some cases put forward new ward names using Aboriginal language, but only where this is the name of a place within a ward, it is currently in common use, and this name is registered under the *Geographic Place Names Act 1998* (Vic). This is a practical solution to the reality that many of Victoria's geographic features are named using Aboriginal language.

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, an appropriate consultation process should be followed before doing so.

About Mount Alexander Shire Council

Profile

Mount Alexander Shire Council is in central Victoria and covers an area of 1,530 km². It is bounded by the City of Greater Bendigo and Loddon Shire in the north, Hepburn Shire in the south, Macedon Ranges and Mitchell shires in the east, and Central Goldfields Shire in the west.

The Traditional Custodians of the Mount Alexander area are the Dja Dja Wurrung people.

Landscape

Major geographic features of the shire are the eponymous Mount Alexander, Mount Tarrengower, and the Loddon and Coliban Rivers. Castlemaine Diggings National Park can be found in the south of the shire.

The major population centre is Castlemaine, which contains roughly half the shire's population (including Campbells Creek). The gold rush town of Maldon, with its population of 1,381, is the second largest town in the shire. Other small towns are Harcourt, Newstead, and Guildford.

Mount Alexander Shire is serviced by the Calder Highway which runs south-east to north-west, connecting Melbourne with Bendigo. The Bendigo railway line runs through the shire, stopping at Castlemaine and other towns. It operates both passenger and freight trains and is a major railway corridor for north-western Victoria.

Community

At the 2021 Census, Mount Alexander Shire had a population of 20,253, an increase from 18,761 in 2016 and 17,591 in 2011 (ABS, 2016; ABS, 2011). Between 2022-2028, the shire's population is projected to grow by a rate of 0.7% per annum.

Of the population, 80.5% were born in Australia, and 87% speak only English at home (ABS, 2021a). The proportion of the population identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people at the 2021 census was 1.3%, below the overall proportion of 2% for regional Victoria.

Manufacturing is a key industry within the shire, accounting for 19% of all jobs. Other major employment areas are healthcare and social assistance (15%), public administration and safety (10%), retail trade (10%), construction (9%), education and training (7%), and accommodation and food services (6%) (ABS, 2021a). Harcourt, in the shire's north, is a major centre for apple production, with 40% of the state's apples coming from the area (Department of Transport and Planning, 2022, p. 10).

Home ownership is common in Mount Alexander, with 48.5% owning their property outright, and a further 33.4% owning with a mortgage (ABS, 2021a). This is compared to the regional Victoria rate of 39.3% outright ownership, and 33.2% owned with a mortgage. Fewer people rent (15%) in Mount Alexander than in regional Victoria overall (23.6%) (ABS, 2021b).

The median weekly income is \$1,252, slightly lower than the regional median of \$1,386 (ABS, 2021b).

Current number of councillors and electoral structure

Mount Alexander Shire Council is currently divided into 5 wards with a total of 7 councillors:

- one ward with 3 councillors (Castlemaine)
- 4 wards with one councillor each (Calder, Coliban, Loddon River, and Tarrengower wards).

Visit the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au for more information on Mount Alexander Shire Council.

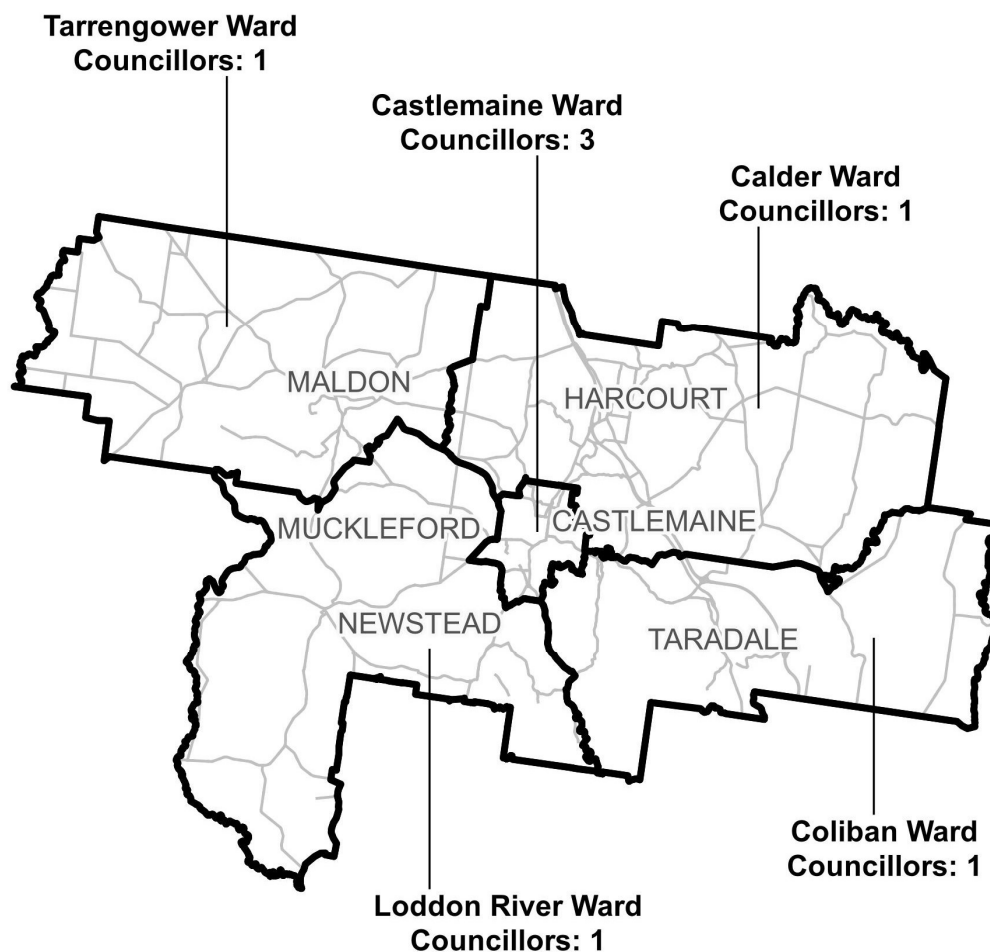


Figure 1: Diagram of current electoral structure of Mount Alexander Shire Council.

There are approximately 16,923 voters in Mount Alexander Shire Council, with a ratio of 2,418 voters per councillor.

Visit the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au for more information on Mount Alexander Shire Council.

Last electoral structure review

The VEC conducted an electoral representation review of Mount Alexander Shire Council in 2011. 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 Mount Alexander Shire Council continue to consist of 7 councillors elected from 5 wards (one ward with 3 councillors and 4 wards with one councillor each).

Visit the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au to access a copy of the 2011 representation review final report.

Preliminary submissions

At the close of submissions on Wednesday 1 March 2023, the panel had received 5 submissions for the electoral structure review of Mount Alexander Shire Council. You can find a list of people who made a preliminary submission in [Appendix 2](#).

The panel received submissions from a range of stakeholders including individuals, community organisations, and Mount Alexander Shire Council. Submissions were published on the VEC website.

A summary of the preliminary submissions is contained in the preliminary report, available on the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au

Preliminary report

A preliminary report was released on Wednesday 29 March 2023. The panel considered public submissions and research findings 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: an unsubdivided electoral structure with 7 councillors.
- Model 2: a subdivided electoral structure with a total of 8 councillors, 4 wards and 2 councillors per ward.
- Model 3: a subdivided electoral structure with a total of 8 councillors, 8 wards and one councillor per ward.

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

Response submissions

The panel received 19 response submissions to the preliminary report from the public by the deadline of 5 pm on Wednesday 19 April 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 (unsubdivided, 7 councillors)	Model 2 (4 wards with 2 councillors per ward)	Model 3 (8 single-councillor wards)	Other
4	1	9	3

*One submission supported Model 3 and an option not proposed by the panel. Another supported Model 2 then Model 3.

There was a mixed response by submitters at the response submission phase. Nonetheless, Model 3 received the most support with 9 submissions followed by Model 1 with 4 submissions. One submitter supported Model 2, and 3 submitters favoured other options that were not put forward in the preliminary report.

Three submissions were considered out of scope of the review, because they supported a mixed multi-councillor ward structure no longer permitted under the Act or due to raising matters not related to electoral structures. However, where relevant the panel factored in the arguments presented in these submissions.

Model 1

Four submitters, from the Castlemaine and Campbells Creek areas, supported an unsubdivided structure. They contended that Model 1 would ensure a greater range of candidates from across the shire would stand at election time, and ultimately achieve greater democratic outcomes. A few of these submitters also argued that an unsubdivided structure would provide greater diversity throughout the shire. Dev Mukherjee from Campbells Creek argued that the proportional representation voting system used in unsubdivided structures consistently resulted in the election of more women and people from minority groups and reasoned that an unsubdivided structure would therefore better reflect the diversity found within the shire.

Conversely, several submitters were opposed to Model 1. These submitters mainly came from rural areas and expressed concern about the potential for the representation of rural interests to be diminished. They argued that candidates from Castlemaine would dominate an unsubdivided shire.

Model 2

One submitter, Derek Reid from Welshmans Reef, expressed support for Model 2 and then Model 3, but largely presented arguments against Model 1. Reid contended that candidates from rural areas would need an unachievable proportion of the vote to be elected under the proportional representation method when competing with candidates from Castlemaine. As such, Reid largely supported a ward-based structure to provide some assurance that voters in rural areas would be represented by candidates local to their area or outside of the main population centre.

Model 3

Nine submitters supported Model 3, most of whom came from the shire's rural areas or small towns located throughout.

Those in favour of this model largely felt it would provide the most effective representation for the shire, especially the rural areas. Many highlighted the shire's diverse communities of interest and the perceived dominance of Castlemaine, and argued that such dominance would likely be compounded in an unsubdivided structure. Others, like Marie Jones, felt that a single-councillor ward structure would encourage local communities to participate in addressing community issues.

Some submitters were critical of a subdivided structure, asserting that there would be less diversity in council as a result and that single-councillor wards would lead to uncontested elections, possibly denying or restricting voter choice at election time.

Other options

While most response submissions supported Model 3, some did not agree with the decisions made by the panel on what models to put forward for public comment as part of the preliminary report and suggested other structures were worthy of further consideration.

Mount Alexander Shire Council advocated for a single-councillor ward structure but supported 7 councillors rather than 8 as put forward in Model 3. The council argued that having 8 councillors would lead to an increase in tied votes on council decisions and would put extra pressure on the mayor when having to cast a deciding vote in the event of a tied vote or deadlock. They also argued that it would encourage voting blocs to form around the mayor, and that having an extra councillor would be a financial burden on the council. These reasons were echoed in another submission, which requested the panel develop a workable single-councillor ward structure with 7 councillors, as the most sensible option.

A further 2 submitters proposed a model that was not compliant with the Act, suggesting that rural areas should be afforded more representation than is permitted. Under the legislated requirement the number of voters represented by each councillor in a ward must be within +/-10% of the average number of voters per councillor for all wards.

One submitter suggested a structure of 9 councillors and 3 wards with 3 councillors in each ward.

Public hearing

The panel held an online public hearing for those wishing to speak about their response submission at 2 pm on Thursday 27 April 2023. Lauren Williams from Maldon chose to speak at the public hearing, though did not express a preference for any of the proposed models.

Williams spoke about the dominance of Castlemaine in council business, and while acknowledging the Act permits a limited number of structures, suggested that the shire's rural areas deserved better representation.

When asked by the panel which of the proposed models would be most tolerable considering the needs of the shire and which would best provide rural areas with fair and effective representation, Williams identified Model 3 on both accounts.

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.

Several submissions called for the panel to make exceptions to this legislated equality requirement for Mount Alexander Shire Council. The panel cannot make exceptions to legislated requirements. 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 within a subdivided electoral structure recommended by the panel must aim to be within the legislated tolerance in time for the 2024 local government election.

Number of councillors

After considering the requirements of the Act, public submissions and the agreed criteria, the panel found 7 or 8 councillors to be an appropriate number for Mount Alexander Shire Council.

The panel considered the characteristics of Mount Alexander Shire Council in relation to similar rural shire councils, including its size and geography, population and the number and distribution of voters across the shire.

Mount Alexander Shire Council currently has 16,923 voters represented by 7 councillors and covers an area of 1,530 km². Other rural shires with a similar number of voters generally also have 7 or 9 councillors. Similar councils with 7 councillors are, at the time of writing, Glenelg Shire, Golden Plains Shire, and Colac Otway. Moira Shire has 9 councillors.

The panel noted that Mount Alexander Shire had a high number of voters compared to many similar councils with 7 councillors and has a population growing at a projected rate of 0.7% annually. As such, the panel considered an increase to 8 councillors may be appropriate if additional factors justified this.

While the panel did not identify any special circumstances that were new to Mount Alexander Shire Council since the representation review in 2011, the panel also recognised that the geographic features and uneven distribution of voters across the shire make developing a satisfactory subdivided electoral structure for Mount Alexander Shire Council challenging.

The Act's requirement for multi-councillor ward structures to have the same number of councillors per ward also poses difficulties, as multi-councillor ward structures are not possible with the current number of councillors. Because of this, the panel also considered subdivided electoral structures with fewer or more councillors. The panel explored whether an increase or decrease in the number of councillors would enable multi- or single-councillor ward structures to be created that may provide more favourable representation for the community. As a result, the panel put forward 2 options with an increased number of councillors: Model 2 and Model 3.

Electoral structure

After considering the requirements of the Act, public submissions and the agreed criteria, the panel found that Model 3 is the best model for promoting fair and equitable representation for voters in Mount Alexander Shire Council and consequently facilitate good governance.

The panel was convinced that the shire would be well served with a single-councillor ward structure consisting of 8 councillors. This model is shown to provide most townships with councillor representation, and split Castlemaine and the rural areas evenly by giving each a total of 4 councillors. The panel also considered Model 3 to largely follow the current ward boundaries, with the only difference being division of the current Castlemaine ward into 4 single-councillor wards. Also importantly, it allows for future projected growth in the Castlemaine area and, of the single-councillor models explored by the panel, has the greatest longevity when considering the legislated requirement for wards to remain within the +/-10% tolerance.

The panel acknowledges Mount Alexander Shire Council's concerns about increasing from 7 to 8 councillors, including the possibility of an increased incidence of tied votes on council decisions. However, Castlemaine (with Campbells Creek) has over 50% of the shire's population, meaning a structure with half of the councillors coming from Castlemaine is not only logical, but is also fair and equitable in terms of representation for Mount Alexander Shire, a key requirement of the Act. The panel examined several 7-councillor models during the preparation of the preliminary report and found them unsuitable. This is due to the way Castlemaine was required to be divided to balance representation, particularly the exclusion of areas on Castlemaine's urban fringe to facilitate a division into 3 wards. While Mount Alexander Shire Council was ready to accept the exclusion of Castlemaine's urban fringe, the panel did not believe a 7-councillor structure would provide fair and equitable representation when compared with the 8-councillor structure.

The panel was concerned that an unsubdivided structure might encourage more focus or attention on Castlemaine to the detriment of other areas outside of the main town centre. The ward-based structure of Model 3 provides a greater guarantee that the other smaller towns are provided representation, while also balancing the requirements of the Act. There was also some concern about the potential of an unsubdivided shire to increase rates of informal voting due to the link between ballot papers with large numbers of candidates and informal voting.

In rejecting Model 2, the panel felt it would place a greater travel burden on the councillors from the rural wards, and that overall, the 2 large 'north-south' rural wards failed to sensibly capture communities of interest.

There are valid arguments both in favour of and against the various unsubdivided and subdivided electoral structures examined in this review, as each have their own benefits and drawbacks. While it is not possible for an electoral structure to address all the issues at play in the shire, the panel considers that, on balance, Model 3 is the best model for promoting fair and equitable representation for voters in Mount Alexander Shire 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:

- Barkers Creek Ward: New name based on a locality within the ward. This locality name is registered in the VICNAMES register.
- Calder Ward: The existing name of the ward under the current electoral structure. The new ward covers much of the same area as this existing ward.
- Campbells Creek Ward: New name based on a locality within the ward. This locality name is registered in the VICNAMES register.
- Coliban Ward: The existing name of the ward under the current electoral structure. The new ward covers much of the same area as this existing ward.
- Forest Creek Ward: New name based on a locality within the ward. This locality name is registered in the VICNAMES register.
- Loddon River Ward: The existing name of the ward under the current electoral structure. The new ward covers much of the same area as this existing ward.
- Moonlight Creek Ward: New name based on a locality within the ward. This locality name is registered in the VICNAMES register.
- Tarrengower Ward: The existing name of the ward under the current electoral structure. The new ward covers much of the same area as this existing ward.

The panel's recommendation

The electoral representation advisory panel recommends that Mount Alexander Shire Council adopt a single-councillor ward structure, with a total of 8 councillors, 8 wards and one councillor per ward.

The recommended names for the 8 wards in this electoral structure are Barkers Creek Ward, Calder Ward, Campbells Creek Ward, Coliban Ward, Forest Creek Ward, Loddon River Ward, Moonlight Creek Ward, Tarrengower Ward.

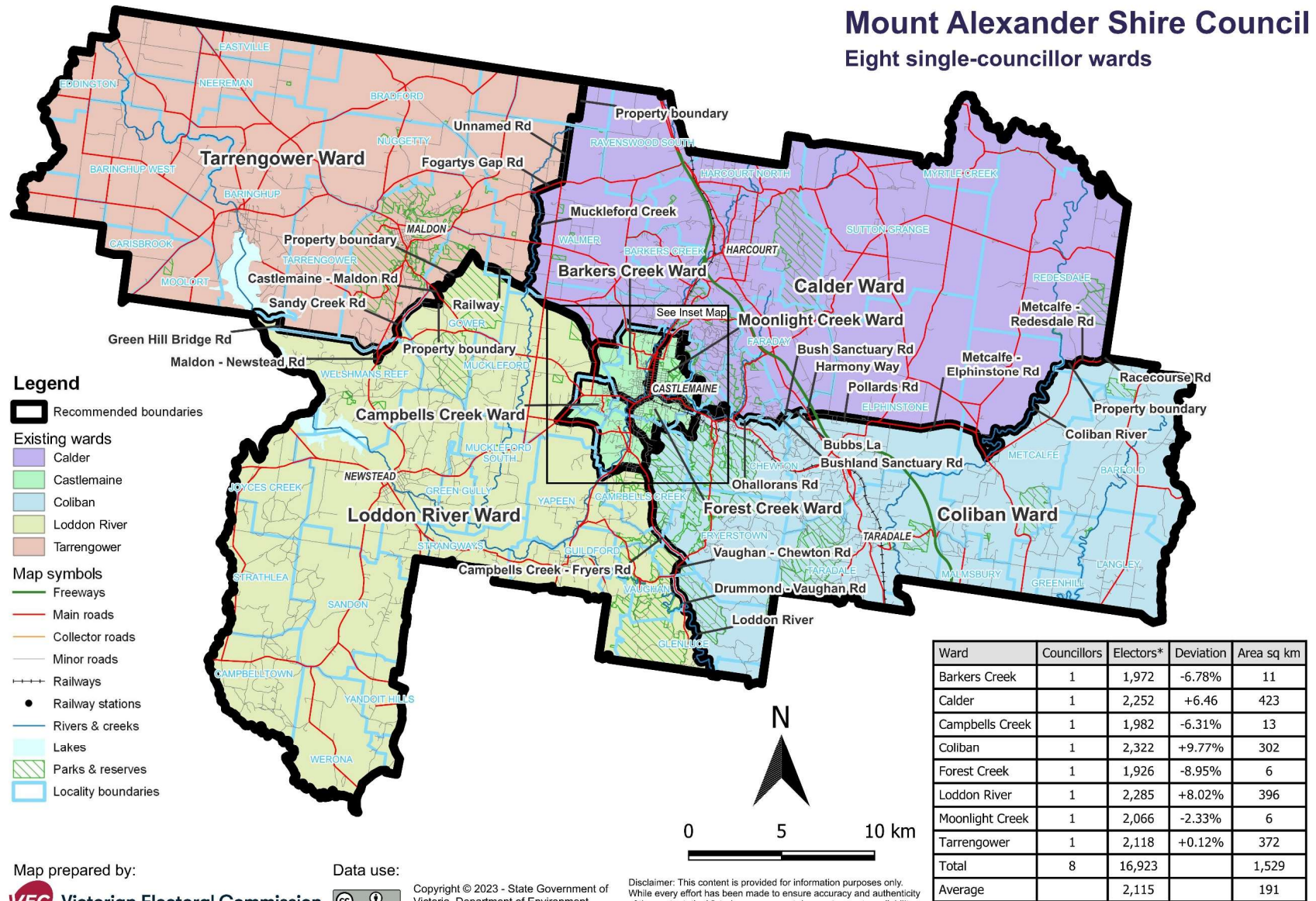
This advice is submitted to the Minister for Local Government as required by the Terms of Reference of the electoral representation advisory panel and the *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic). This electoral structure was designated as Model 3 in the preliminary report.

Please see [Appendix 1](#) for a detailed map of this recommended electoral structure.

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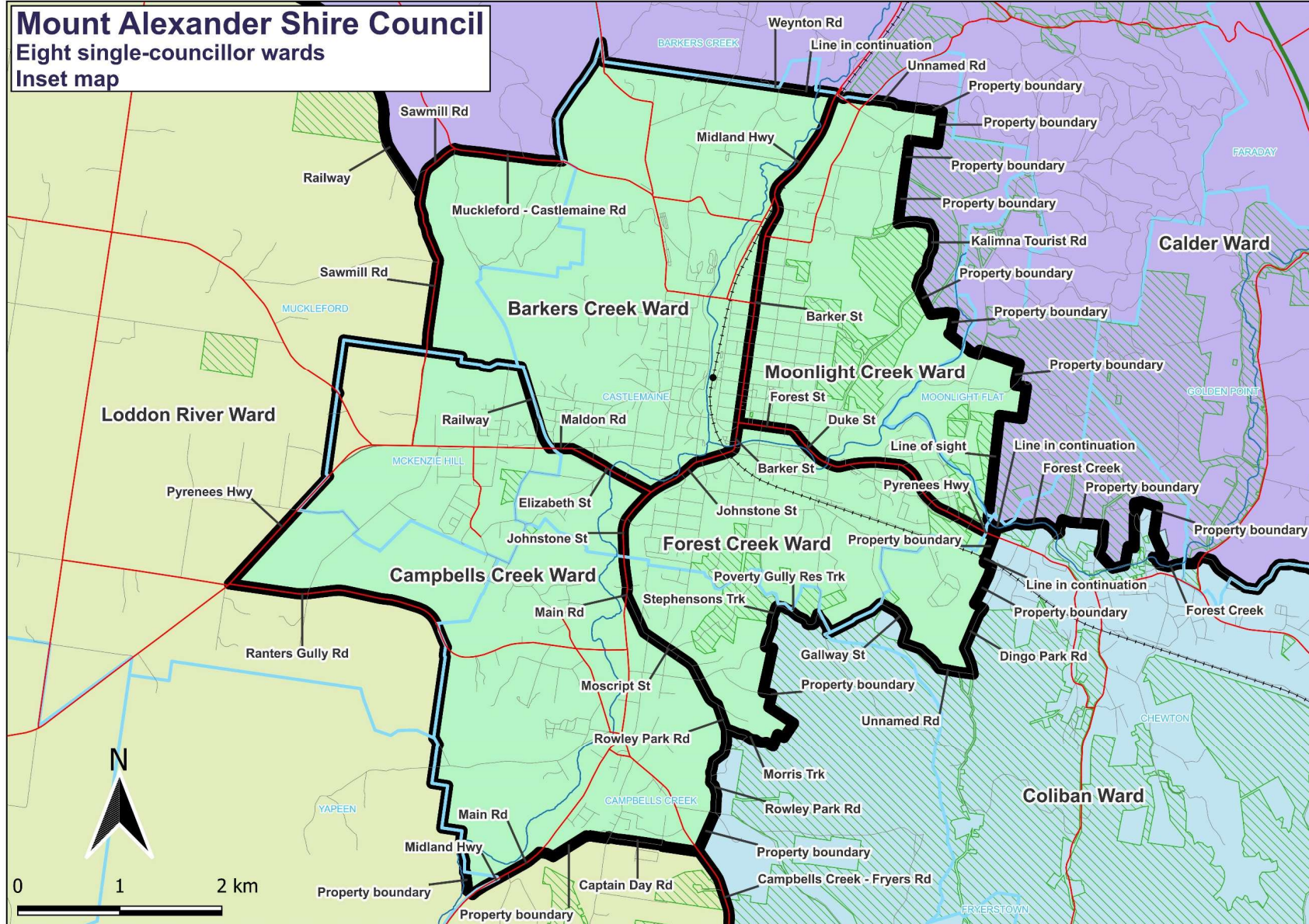
Appendix 1: Map of recommended structure



Map prepared by:
VEC Victorian Electoral Commission

Data use:
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Appendix 2: Public involvement

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

Preliminary submissions

Preliminary submissions were made by:

Frape-Linton, Diane

Mount Alexander Shire Council

Reid, Derek

Sinclair, Cate

Thomson, Gavan

Response submissions

Response submissions were made by:

Ballinger, Robyn

Chewton Domain Society Inc.

Da Costa, Hilary

Ellis, John

Henty, Tom

Hooper, Christine

Hosking, Chris

Jones, Marie

Ling, David

McDonald, Paul

Mead, Leeanne

Minchin, Lisa

Mount Alexander Shire Council

Mukherjee, Dev

Phillips, Beverley

Reid, Derek

Waddington, Michele

Williams, Lauren

Public hearing

The following people spoke at the public hearing:

Williams, Lauren

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