

Local council electoral structure review

Final Report

Wodonga City Council

August 2023

Acknowledgement of Country

While there are no formally recognised Traditional Custodian groups for the lands within Wodonga City Council, the panel recognises the connection Aboriginal peoples have to the lands across Victoria. The panel acknowledges Aboriginal peoples as Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands and waterways within Wodonga City Council. They acknowledge the strength and resilience of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and recognise their continuous connections to lands, waters and communities across the country.

Report approval

Version	Date approved	Approved by
1	23 August 2023	The Honourable Frank Vincent AO KC
1	21 August 2023	Ms Máiréad Doyle

Version approval:

Version	Date approved	Approved by	Brief description
1	25 August 2023	Program Sponsor	Final proofread and confirmed to be sent

Contents

Executive summary	4
Recommendation	4
Summary of approach	5
Developing electoral structure models	5
Preliminary report.....	5
Response submissions	5
Public hearing	5
Background	6
About the 2023–24 electoral structure reviews.....	6
The electoral representation advisory panel.....	6
Public engagement	7
Developing recommendations.....	7
About Wodonga City Council	11
Profile	11
Current number of councillors and electoral structure	12
Last electoral structure review.....	13
Preliminary report	14
Response submissions	15
Public hearing	17
Findings and recommendation	18
Number of councillors	18
Electoral structure	18
Ward names	20
The panel’s recommendation	20
References	21
Appendix 1: Map of recommended structure	22
Appendix 2: Public involvement	25
Response submissions	25
Public hearing	25

Executive summary

An independent electoral structure review panel appointed by the Minister for Local Government has reviewed the electoral structure of Wodonga 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), Wodonga 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 Wodonga 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 Wodonga City Council adopt a 7 single-councillor ward structure – 7 wards with one councillor per ward.

The recommended names for the 7 wards in this electoral structure are Baranduda Range, Barnawartha North, Huon Creek, Lake Hume, Marimba Park, Racecourse and Sumsion Gardens.

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 5 July 2023 with the following electoral structure models for public consultation:

- Model 1: a subdivided electoral structure with a total of 7 councillors – 7 wards with one councillor per ward.
- Model 2: a subdivided electoral structure with a total of 7 councillors – 7 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

Response submissions

The panel received 16 submissions responding to the preliminary report. There were no mapped submissions.

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 Wednesday 2 August 2023. Two people 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 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 Wodonga City Council) must now have single-councillor ward electoral structures.

For Wodonga 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 Wodonga City Council had 3 members:

- The Honourable Frank Vincent AO KC (Chairperson*)
- Ms Liz Williams PSM
- Acting Deputy Electoral Commissioner Ms Máiréad Doyle.

*Please note that during the public hearing and the final decision meeting of this review, Ms Elizabeth Williams sat as Acting Chairperson while the Honourable Frank Vincent took a period of leave. The content of the final report was endorsed by the Honourable Frank Vincent on his return from leave.

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 Wodonga 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 with the release of the preliminary report
- information on social media channels
- updated website content on 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.

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

- targeting social media advertisements at 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 Wodonga 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 Wodonga 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 Wodonga 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 Wodonga City Council

Profile

Wodonga City Council is located on the Murray River, about 300 km from Melbourne. It shares its borders with Towong Shire to the east and Indigo Shire to the west and south. The Murray River (Victorian-New South Wales border) forms the council's northern boundary. There is a strong community connection with its 'twin city' of Albury, on the New South Wales side of the border. The 2 municipalities form the Greater Albury-Wodonga Region. Albury City is smaller in area to Wodonga City, but has a larger population.

Landscape

The Wodonga City Council covers 433 km². The council consists of the main urban centre of Wodonga, substantial industrial areas, and a significant rural hinterland. It is a major livestock selling centre, and a regional manufacturing and distribution hub.

The current population of the council is 43,253 (ABS 2022a), with over 68% of residents residing in the urban localities of Baranduda, Belvoir, Martin Park, Melrose, and Wodonga Central, South and West. About 60% (264 km²) of the council's land area is used for agriculture (primarily grazing and dairy farming) (DAFF 2023).

Recognised as a strategic distribution hub along the eastern seaboard, the council area is served by the Hume Freeway, the Kiewa Valley and Murray Valley highways, along with the Melbourne to Sydney rail line.

Community

Population growth in Wodonga City Council has been relatively strong over the last decade, increasing from 35,519 in 2011 to 43,253 in 2022 (ABS 2022a, ABS 2011). Leading into 2028, the population is projected to grow by an average rate of 1.3% annually. Much of this growth will be in the urban towns immediately south-east of central Wodonga - Baranduda, Bandiana and North Leneva (.id 2022b).

The Wodonga City Council area economy supports an estimated 20,600 jobs, with health care and social assistance accounting for 16.9% of employment, followed by public administration (11.6%), retail trade (10.8%) and manufacturing (9.8%). The main occupation of residents is professionals (17.8%), followed by technicians and trades workers (15.8%) (.id 2022a). The unemployment rate across the council area is 4.2%, marginally higher than regional Victoria at 4.1%.

The council has a median age of 38 years. While this has increased from 36 years at the 2016 Census, it remains lower than the regional Victoria median of 43 years (ABS 2022a).

The proportion of the population who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander was 3.4% at the 2021 census, higher than the 2% in regional Victoria (ABS 2022a, 2022b). Of the population, 83.6% were born in Australia and 88.1% speak only English at home (both higher than regional Victoria at 81% and 86.4% respectively) (ABS 2022a, 2022b).

Home ownership across the council is common, with almost 64% of residents owning their property outright or with a mortgage. This is at a lower rate than regional Victoria overall, where the combined rate is 72.5% (ABS 2022a, 2022b). Conversely, more people rent in Wodonga City Council (32.6%) (ABS 2022a) than in regional Victoria (23.6%) (ABS 2022b). The weekly median household income is \$1,498, higher than the regional Victorian median of \$1,386 (ABS 2022a).

Current number of councillors and electoral structure

Wodonga City Council is currently unsubdivided with a total of 7 councillors:

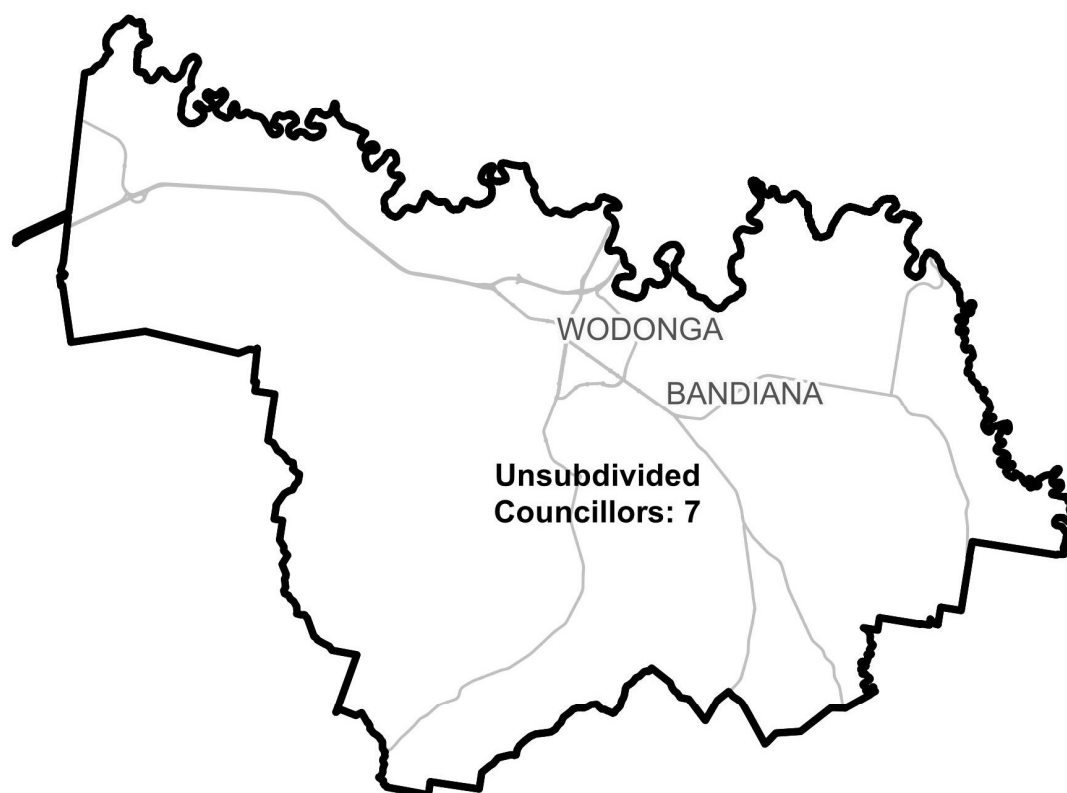


Figure 1: Diagram of current electoral structure of Wodonga City Council.

There are around 33,461 voters in Wodonga City Council, with an estimated ratio of 4,780 voters per councillor.

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

Last electoral structure review

The VEC conducted an electoral representation review of Wodonga City Council in 2015. 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 Wodonga City Council continue to consist of 7 councillors elected from an unsubdivided electoral structure.

Visit the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au to access a copy of the 2015 representation review final report.

Preliminary report

A preliminary report was released on Wednesday 5 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 7 councillors – 7 wards with one councillor per ward.
- Model 2: a subdivided electoral structure with a total of 7 councillors – 7 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

Response submissions

The panel received 16 response submissions to the preliminary report from the public by the deadline of 5 pm on Wednesday 26 July 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 (7 single-councillor wards)	Model 2 (7 single-councillor wards)	No preferred model indicated	Other
1	10	-	5*

*These submissions preferred Wodonga City Council to remain unsubdivided.

Model 2 received by far the most support with 10 submissions, while Model 1 was supported in one. There were 5 submissions in favour of retaining the current electoral structure, which is no longer permitted under the Act. One submission addressed matters out of scope of the review and another was incomplete, both of which were not able to be published.

Model 1

The submitter in favour of Model 1 did not provide reasons for this preference.

Tracey Farrant argued against Model 1 mainly due to the large area covered by Baranduda Range Ward. Farrant felt the councillor elected to represent this ward would be disadvantaged because of the time and resources required to meaningfully engage with community over such a large area.

Model 2

A total of 10 submissions supported Model 2, though a number of these did not provide specific reasons or arguments for this preference. The submission of the Benambra Branch of the Victorian Labor Party supported the move to an electoral structure of 7 single-councillor wards as it would increase representation of council's communities. The party branch viewed Model 2 as the fairest option and best able to provide representation for the council's communities of interest, particularly those outside of the immediate Wodonga locality. It was also argued that Model 2 better captured the diverse make-up of the rural areas and that would more effectively accommodate projected population growth in the Leneva and Baranduda localities.

Similarly, Farrant stated in favour of Model 2 that its 7 single-councillor wards would provide the rural communities with more say in who represents them and provide rural voters more opportunity to build a relationship with their local councillor.

Other options

Five response submissions advocated maintaining the current unsubdivided electoral structure, arguing that a ward structure would decrease representation. Others noted that Wodonga City Council had been 'unsubdivided' since the 1997 elections and that this familiar structure should remain. Submitters also stated that subdividing the council into single councillor wards would result in councillors (1) not across broader council issues and (2) parochial and would not therefore deliver an improved system of representation or diversity of candidates.

Public hearing

The panel held an online public hearing for those wishing to speak about their response submission at 2 pm on 2 August 2023. Two people spoke at the hearing.

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

Speaking on behalf of the Wodonga City Council, Mayor Ron Mildren outlined the council's position relating to the electoral structure review process. Cr. Mildren stated that the council viewed the current unsubdivided structure as the most appropriate for the City of Wodonga. Referencing a letter from the council to the Minister for Local Government, Cr. Mildren noted that this position had been recommended to The Minister of Local Government. The council felt that the subdivision of the council area into single-councillor wards would create artificial boundaries. In addition, the ward boundaries would be based mostly on “voter number equity”, would be arbitrary, and possibly detrimental to improving the governance and decision making of the council. Responding to a question on the council's view of the models put forward in the preliminary report, Cr. Mildren stated it did not support any of the models and for this reason was not interested in providing additional feedback or comment. The panel noted the council's position and reiterated, that under the electoral structure review terms of reference, they can only consider single councillor ward structures for Wodonga City Council.

Mitch Bridges addressed the panel on behalf of the Benambra Branch of the Victorian Labor Party. Reiterating the branch's support for Model 2, Bridges argued:

- the Baranduda Range and Lake Hume wards was an appropriate split of these areas and would likely foster greater co-operation between the communities and the councillors representing the wards.
- the 3 central wards provided the most appropriate division of the Wodonga city and surrounding areas and would likely see voters residing outside of the town centre taking a more active role.
- the community of Barnawartha North and surrounding areas would be better represented under Model 2.

Bridges rejected the notion that the Wodonga City community is homogenous, to argue that Model 2 would attract more diverse candidates. Bridges also relayed the branch's view that with smaller ward areas to canvas, running as a candidate would be less costly.

In responding to a question from the panel regarding the split of central Wodonga, Bridges noted it would have been ideal for the ward boundaries of Sumsion Gardens and Racecourse wards to have been drawn further east (following Anzac Parade) – but understood this may not be possible due to voter distribution numbers. The panel also questioned the local branch regarding contributors to their submission. Bridges responded by stating that following discussion at a recent branch meeting, 4 to 5 members developed the submission and made it open to the public.

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.

Some submissions called for the panel to make exceptions to the legislated requirement for Wodonga City Council to adopt a single-councillor ward structure. While the panel understands that some voters across the Wodonga City Council community wish to retain the current unsubdivided ward structure, the panel cannot make exceptions to the legislated requirements of the Act.

Number of councillors

After considering the requirements of the Act, public submissions and the agreed criteria, the panel found 7 councillors to be an appropriate number for Wodonga City Council.

The panel considered the characteristics of Wodonga 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. Wodonga City Council currently has around 33,461 voters represented by 7 councillors. The council covers an area of 433 km². The city is at the higher end of the number of voters per councillor compared with other 7-councillor regional city councils. Because of this the panel considered increasing councillor numbers to either 8 or 9. The panel considered projected population growth, the relatively small area of the council, and any other special circumstances that might justify an increase. However, in the absence of a compelling 8 or 9-councillor single ward electoral structure, the panel agreed it was more appropriate for the total number of councillors to remain unchanged.

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 Wodonga City Council and consequently facilitate good governance.

A similar approach was taken in developing the ward boundaries for each model, utilising infrastructure (main roads, rail line), geographic features (rivers, creeks) and localities. Model 1 was a structure of 2 rural-focused wards and 5 predominately urban wards, while Model 2 divides the council into a mix of 3 urban wards, one predominately rural in focus and 3 wards comprising rural and urban focus. In coming to its final recommendation the panel identified various benefits and drawbacks for each model and considered these alongside other relevant

factors, such as population growth and change, and the comments and suggestions made as part of the review process.

Overall, the panel felt both models would provide representation to the communities of interest throughout the council area but noted some important differences. In Model 1, Gateway Island Ward effectively captures the central area of Wodonga, while 4 of the proposed wards have the dominant and important Murray River as their northern boundary. The panel identified possible disadvantages of the large Baranduda Range Ward (250 km²). Stretching from the council's western boundary across to the eastern boundary of Lake Hume, the ward might possibly include various communities of interest with not much in common. The panel felt the large ward might also result in a heavier workload for the elected councillor and potentially impact their ability to connect and represent voters and diverse communities.

The panel considered the advantages of Model 2 as follows. The wards capturing the areas outside of the Wodonga city were considered more consistent with public feedback. Division of the larger, less populated areas of the council into 4 wards, each incorporating parts of urban localities, created more equally sized wards and recognised the strong links between the more urban and outer areas of the council. In addition, it was determined that the projected population growth south of central Wodonga would be better accommodated in the Baranduda Range and Huon Creek wards of Model 2. Encompassing the localities of Wodonga and West Wodonga, the urban-focused wards of Marimba Park, Sumsion Gardens, and Racecourse contained approximately 43% of all voters. The panel considered these wards worked well to capture a large segment of the voting population and using strong features as boundaries effectively divide it into 3 equal wards. The panel was confident communities of interest across these wards would be well-represented.

The panel felt that in both models the opportunity for voters to elect a good spread of candidates from across the council area was much the same. Though it was determined on balance, that Model 2 provided a better division of the main population centre and a more equitable division of the less populated and rural areas. For these reasons it was determined Model 2 better reflected the communities of interest.

The panel notes the challenge of creating a single-councillor ward structure for Wodonga City Council that both complies with the legislated +/-10% requirement and captures geographic communities of interest within wards. Due to the uneven distribution/growth of the population across the council area, it is also 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, especially in councils changing from an unsubdivided electoral structure to one consisting of single-councillor wards, past election results provide some indication. The panel examined election results for Wodonga City Council, including numbers of candidates nominating, incidences of uncontested elections and rates of informal voting, and found there to be relatively strong candidate numbers across the council area. The panel assumes this trend will continue

under a structure of 7 single-councillor wards, minimising the risk of uncontested or failed elections.

After considering a range of factors, including public feedback in response submissions, the diverse communities of interest across the council area, councillor workloads and the structure of the ward 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 Wodonga City Council under the requirements of the Act.

Ward names

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

- Baranduda Range: Name based on a geographic feature in the ward. This name is registered in the VICNAMES register.
- Barnawartha North: Name based on a locality entirely in the ward. This locality name is registered in the VICNAMES register.
- Huon Creek: Name based on a locality entirely in the ward. This locality name is registered in the VICNAMES register.
- Lake Hume: Name based on a geographic feature in the ward. This name is registered in the VICNAMES register.
- Marimba Park: Name based on a geographic feature in the ward. This name is registered in the VICNAMES register.
- Racecourse: Name based on a dominate feature in the ward. This name is registered in the VICNAMES register.
- Sumsion Gardens: Name based on a park in the ward. This name is registered in the VICNAMES register.

The panel's recommendation

The electoral representation advisory panel recommends that Wodonga City Council adopt a 7 single-councillor ward structure – 7 wards with one councillor per ward.

The recommended names for the 7 wards in this electoral structure are Baranduda Range, Barnawartha North, Huon Creek, Lake Hume, Marimba Park, Racecourse and Sumsion Gardens.

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, Wodonga \(LGA\)](#), ABS website, accessed 4 May 2023.

—(2022b) [2021 Census All Persons QuickStats, Rest of Vic](#), ABS website, accessed 4 May 2023.

—(2016) [2016 Census All Person QuickStats, Wodonga \(LGA\)](#), ABS website, accessed 4 May 2023.

—(2011) [2011 Census All Person QuickStats, Wodonga \(LGA\)](#), ABS website, accessed 4 May 2023.

City of Wodonga (2023) [Major Projects - Planning for Wodonga Hills](#), City of Wodonga website, accessed 5 May 2023.

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry (2023) [Land Use](#), DAFF website, accessed 8 May 2023.

Geographic Place Names Act 1998 (Vic)

.id (informed decisions) (2022a) [Welcome to the City of Wodonga Community and Social Profiles](#), .id website, accessed 5 May 2023.

—(2022b) [Welcome to the City of Wodonga Population Forecasts](#), .id website, accessed 5 May 2023.

Local Government Act 1989 (Vic)

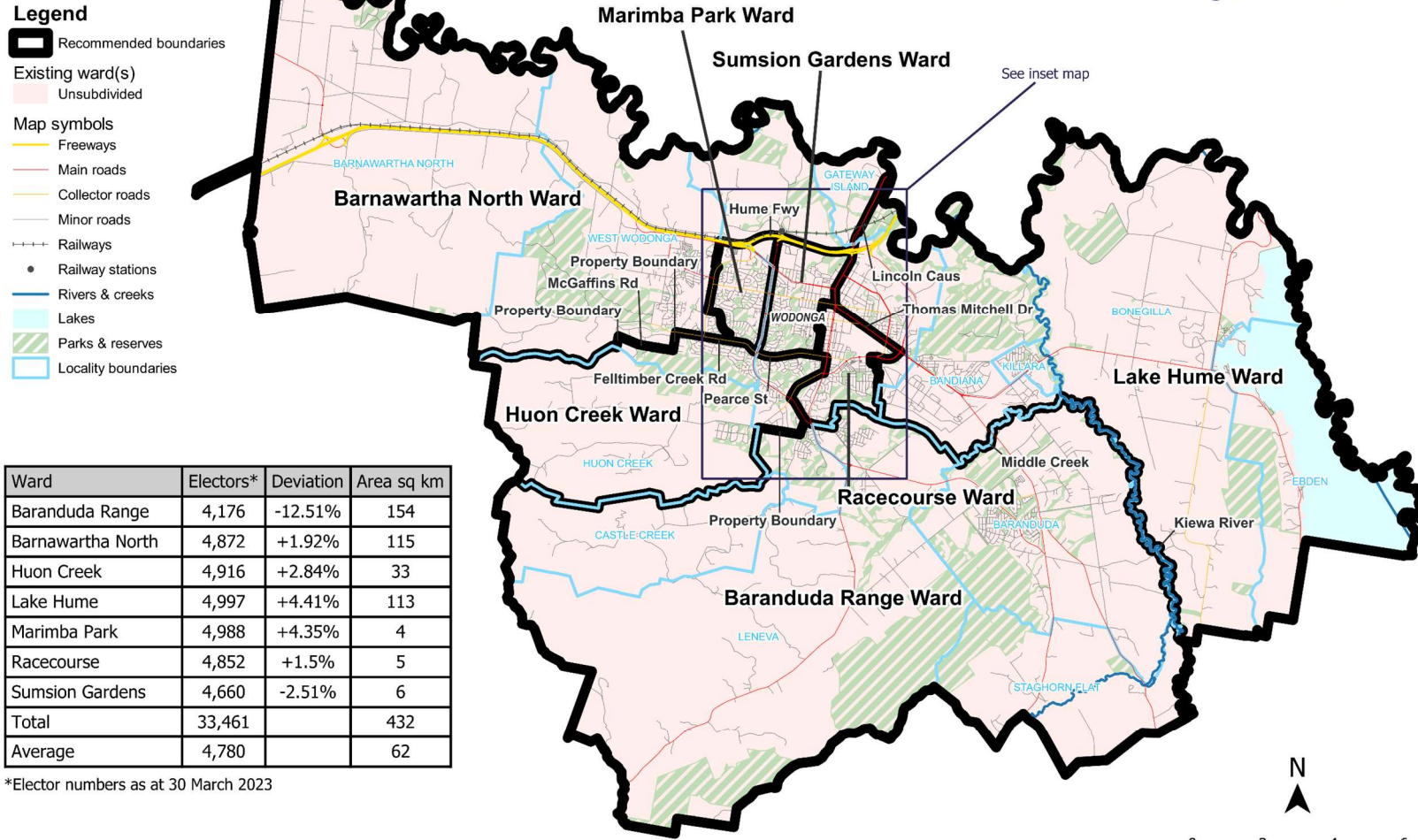
Local Government Act 2020 (Vic)

Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020 (Vic)

REMPLAN (2022) [Economy, Jobs and Business Insights](#), REMPLAN website, accessed 5 May 2023

Appendix 1: Map of recommended structure

Wodonga City Council Map of recommended option 7 single-councillor wards

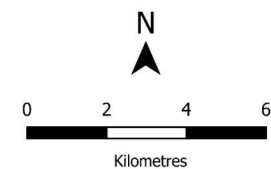


Data use:



Layers for alignment:
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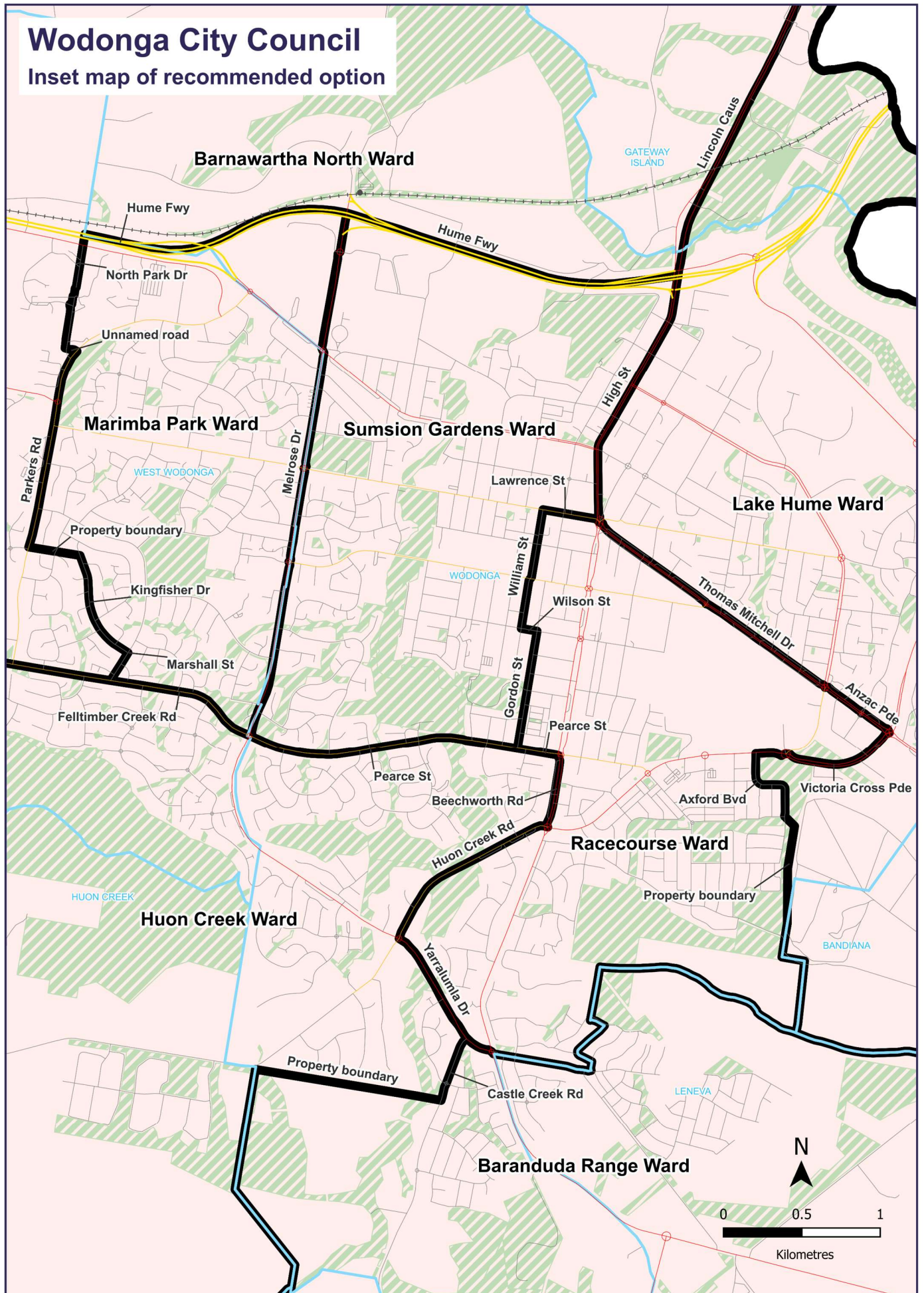
Ward	Electors*	Deviation	Area # (square km)
Baranduda Range	4,176	-12.51%	154
Barnawartha North	4,872	+1.92%	115
Huon Creek	4,916	+2.84%	33
Lake Hume	4,997	+4.41%	113
Marimba Park	4,988	+4.35%	4
Racecourse	4,852	+1.5%	5
Sumsion Gardens	4,660	-2.51%	6
Total	33,461	-	432
Average	4,780	-	62

*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 (e.g. ABS).

Wodonga City Council

Inset map of recommended option



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.

Response submissions

Response submissions were made by:

ALP - Benambra Branch

Burns, Melissa

Chilvers, Alyssa

Dean, Trevor

Farrant, Tracey

Gascoyne, Darrell

Hayman, Carolyn

Hicks, William

Jenkin, Graham

McDonald, Helena & Ken

McQuilton, Dawn

Rossiter, Dean

Sinclair, Gail

Turner, Karen

Wilkinson, Don

Wodonga City Council

Public hearing

The following people spoke at the public hearing:

Bridges, Mitch (on behalf of ALP - Benambra Branch)

Mildren, Cr Ron (on behalf of Wodonga City Council)

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