

Local council electoral structure review

# Final Report

Maribyrnong Council

December 2023

### Acknowledgement of Country

The electoral representation advisory panel acknowledges the Bunurong and Wurundjeri peoples 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	12 December 2023	Ms Julie Eisenbise
1	13 December 2023	Mr Tim Presnell
1	14 December 2023	Ms Dana Fleming

### Version approval

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# 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 Maribyrnong City Council</b> .....	<b>11</b>
Profile .....	11
Current number of councillors and electoral structure .....	12
Last electoral structure review.....	12
<b>Preliminary report</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>Response submissions</b> .....	<b>15</b>
<b>Public hearing</b> .....	<b>15</b>
<b>Findings and recommendation</b> .....	<b>16</b>
Number of councillors .....	16
Electoral structure .....	17
Ward names .....	19
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>24</b>
Response submissions .....	24

## Executive summary

An electoral structure review panel appointed by the Minister for Local Government has reviewed the electoral structure of Maribyrnong 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), Maribyrnong 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 Maribyrnong 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 Maribyrnong 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 Bluestone Ward, Braybrook Ward, Burndap Ward, River Ward, Saltwater Ward, Sheoak Ward, and Wattle 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.

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 25 October 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](http://vec.vic.gov.au)

### Response submissions

The panel received 2 submissions responding to the preliminary report. Neither of these submissions included maps.

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 10 am on Tuesday 21 November 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 Maribyrnong City Council) must now have single-councillor ward electoral structures.

For Maribyrnong 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 Maribyrnong City Council had 3 members:

- Ms Julie Eisenbise (Chairperson)
- Mr Tim Presnell
- Deputy 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 VEC.

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 Maribyrnong 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](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.

Maribyrnong City was also offered 2 optional 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.

Maribyrnong City Council took up the targeted social media option but not the VoterAlert option.

### **Public consultation**

The panel encouraged public input to the review of Maribyrnong 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 Maribyrnong 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 Maribyrnong 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 Maribyrnong City Council

## Profile

Maribyrnong City Council is located on the Maribyrnong River, 4 km west of central Melbourne. Covering an area of 31 km<sup>2</sup>, it includes the suburbs of Braybrook, Footscray, Kingsville, Maidstone, Maribyrnong, Seddon, West Footscray, Tottenham and Yarraville. It is bordered by Hobsons Bay City Council to the south, Melton City Council to the west, Moonee Valley City Council to the north and Melbourne City Council to the east.

The Traditional Custodians of the land in the Maribyrnong City Council area are the Bunurong and Wurundjeri peoples.

## Landscape

Close to the Port of Melbourne, airports and central Melbourne, Maribyrnong City Council is well serviced by major roads and public transport.

The council area supports a range of land uses, including significant industrial areas, activity centres and diverse residential neighbourhoods. There are major open space areas along the Maribyrnong River. Economic shifts have led to many former industrial sites in the council area being redeveloped for residential use (DTP 2023).

The council area includes the Western Hospital, Victoria University, Footscray Community Arts Centre and the Whitten Oval.

## Population and community

Maribyrnong City Council was home to 85,209 people in 2021 (ABS 2022a), an increase of 13,575 over the previous decade (ABS 2011). The median age of residents in 2021 was 35, with more people aged 25 to 49 (47.5%) than for Greater Melbourne overall (37.4%) (.id 2022a).

The council area's population is forecast to grow by about 2.5% per year to over 135,000 by 2041 (.id 2022c). Growth will be uneven, with most new housing in strategic redevelopment sites and activity centres (MCC 2018). Footscray will be a focal point for new residential and commercial development (DTP 2023).

In 2021, 38% of residents were born overseas (from over 100 countries) compared to 35.7% for Greater Melbourne overall (.id 2022a). Over 42% of residents spoke a language other than English at home. Residents who identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people in 2021 accounted for 0.7% of the population, which is the same proportion as the average for Greater Melbourne (ABS 20221; 2022b).

More than half of dwellings were medium or high density in 2021, compared to 34.4% for Greater Melbourne overall (.id 2022a). A higher proportion of residents (41.1%) were also renting compared to Greater Melbourne (29.2%) (.id 2022a). The median household weekly income was \$1,998 in 2021, higher than the average for Greater Melbourne of \$1,901 (ABS 2022a; 2022b).

Maribyrnong City Council has more than 9,700 local businesses that employ over 47,000 people (.id 2022b). The labour force participation rate in 2021 for all residents aged 15 years and over was 69.4%, higher than the average for Greater Melbourne overall (.id 2022a).

## Current number of councillors and electoral structure

Maribyrnong City Council is currently divided into 3 wards with a total of 7 councillors:

- one ward with 3 councillors (Yarraville)
- 2 wards with 2 councillors each (River and Stony Creek wards).



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

There are an estimated 69,232 voters in Maribyrnong City Council, with an estimated ratio of 9,890 voters per councillor.

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

## Last electoral structure review

The VEC conducted an electoral representation review of Maribyrnong City 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 Maribyrnong City Council adopt a structure of 7 councillors elected from 3 wards (one ward with 3 councillors and 2 wards with 2 councillors each).

Visit the VEC website at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au) to access a copy of the 2011 representation review final review report.

## Preliminary report

A preliminary report was released on Wednesday 25 October 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](https://vec.vic.gov.au)

## Response submissions

The panel received 2 response submissions to the preliminary report from the public by the deadline of 5 pm on Wednesday 15 November 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)
-	2

Both submissions supported the 7 single-councillor electoral structure proposed under Model 2.

One submission was from Maribyrnong City Council and the other from an individual, Fred Madden, who raised concerns that the size of the council area justifies an external review and that the review process appeared to be restrictive of open discussion and awareness.

### Model 1

There were no submissions in support of or against Model 1.

### Model 2

Model 2 was supported by both submissions, but neither included any details on the reasons why this model was preferred. The council submission did include minutes of a Special Council Meeting (Wednesday 8 November 2023), where it was recommended the Council's submission state its preference for a structure of single-councillor wards and Model 2 as 'the preferred ward and name structure for Maribyrnong City Council.'

## Public hearing

An online public hearing for those wishing to speak about their response submission was scheduled for 10 am on Tuesday 21 November 2023. As no submitters asked to speak, the hearing did not go ahead.

## Findings and recommendation

The panel noted that one of the submissions was critical of the review process, suggesting it restricted open discussion and there was a lack of public awareness about the review. However, it was not clear to the panel what aspect of the review process the submitter was referring to. The panel is satisfied that the public information and awareness program, as outlined earlier in this report, to inform the public about the Maribyrnong City Council electoral structure review was adequate. Multiple opportunities for public input into the review of Maribyrnong City Council, including written and mapped submissions and the opportunity to present to the panel at a public hearing were offered. However, no submitters chose to present at the public hearing.

One submission argued that the size of the council should justify an external review. Although relevant to local representation more generally, this is beyond the scope of the current review process.

One of the challenges facing Maribyrnong City Council is that although it is a small council area with only moderate population growth forecast, the growth up until 2028 will be unevenly spread and focused mostly in and around the Footscray activity centre. This presents a challenge when seeking to ensure the legislated voter deviations are met across all wards in 2024 and remain viable until 2028.

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 for all wards in the council area.

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 7 councillors to be an appropriate number for Maribyrnong City Council.

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

Maribyrnong City Council currently has an estimated 69,232 voters represented by 7 councillors and covers an area of 31 km<sup>2</sup>. While the council is among the smallest metropolitan councils in terms of the number of voters, similar sized councils such as Hobsons Bay City Council and



Bayside City Council, also have 7 councillors. The panel did not identify any special circumstances at the council that would warrant changing the number of councillors, and noted that both submissions supported 7 councillors for Maribyrnong City Council. Given only moderate population growth is forecast within the council area and a desire to maintain similar voter-councillor ratios to other comparable metropolitan councils, the panel considered it appropriate for the number of councillors to remain at 7.

## **Electoral structure**

After considering the requirements of the Act, public submissions and the agreed criteria, the panel found Model 1 to be the single-councillor ward model with the best potential to promote fair and equitable representation for voters in Maribyrnong City Council and consequently facilitate good governance.

Model 1 would use the existing 3 multi-councillor ward structure as the basis for a 'minimal change' approach. Each existing ward would be divided into equivalent single-councillor wards to create 3 wards in place of Yarraville Ward, and 2 wards each covering the current River and Stony Creek wards. Strong features, including main roads, railway lines and locality boundaries, would be adopted as ward boundaries. However, minor roads would be required in some areas, including part of the eastern boundary of the proposed Wattle Ward (nominally named McIvor Ward in the preliminary report) and the boundary between the proposed River and Burndap wards. This would ensure the number of voters in these wards remain within the +/-10% deviation requirement.

The panel noted that the residents of Kingsville, Seddon and Yarraville generally identify as one community of interest east of Geelong Road. However, with too many voters for one ward, it is essential to divide this area into at least 2 or more wards. Splitting this community across 3 wards (rather than the 2 wards proposed in Model 2) is a potential drawback of Model 1. However, the panel felt that maintaining the Geelong Road boundary along its length was important to communities of interest on both sides of this major road and importantly, would allow for anticipated growth in Footscray to be spread across multiple wards. The north-south Williamstown and Werribee railway line already creates a physical divide in this area, providing another strong ward boundary. The panel also felt that the ward boundaries in themselves would not change communities of interest east of Geelong Road and maintaining the representation of 3 councillors for the same geographic area as the current 3-councillor Yarraville Ward would be an added benefit.

A potential drawback of Model 1 was the unusual shape of the proposed Braybrook Ward, which includes Braybrook and parts of Maidstone south of Ballarat Road. Whilst unusual in shape, the panel felt that the southern part of Maidstone east of Ashley Street was likely to have similar communities of interest to those in Braybrook. Maintaining existing locality boundaries as the southern ward boundary for the proposed Braybrook Ward in Model 1 also allows for all West Footscray to be contained within one ward.

Model 2 made stronger use of locality boundaries than Model 1, seeking to capture communities of interest more by locality. It broadly resembles the single-councillor ward structure in place for Maribyrnong City Council prior to 2012, but with some modified boundaries to reflect changes in voter distribution since that time. In Model 2 the localities of Braybrook, Kingsville, Maidstone, Maribyrnong and Seddon would be contained within single wards, thus keeping these communities together. Model 2 would also keep the Footscray activity centre within a single ward.

The attempt to base wards in Model 2 on locality boundaries worked well in some areas, for example, the proposed River Ward would contain the locality of Maribyrnong fully, and the proposed Wattle and Sheoak wards would contain Kingsville, Seddon and Yarraville within 2 wards. However, in other areas such as Braybrook and Maidstone, there were too few voters to comprise a ward, requiring the ward boundaries to be extended beyond locality boundaries. This resulted in West Footscray being split across 3 wards, and the proposed Stony Creek Ward having 2 residential communities (Braybrook and part of West Footscray) physically divided by the railway line and the Tottenham industrial area. The panel felt that the unusual shape of the proposed Bluestone Ward, with minor roads as boundaries, would not be as easily understood and likely divide more communities of interest compared to Model 1.

Model 2 was supported by both submissions, although no reasons were provided to support this position. The panel noted and discussed at length the fact that both Model 1 and Model 2 had the potential to split different communities of interest. Model 1 would split the communities east of Geelong Road and Model 2 the communities west of Geelong Road.

The panel's decision to recommend the electoral structure proposed in Model 1 is based on consideration of the strengths and weaknesses of both models and how these translate into an effective electoral structure for the whole council area. The panel appreciates the support expressed for Model 2 and acknowledges it has some benefits. However, considering a range of factors including voter numbers per ward, use of clear features as ward boundaries, ward shapes, communities of interest and governance outcomes – Model 1 was determined to be on balance, the most appropriate electoral structure for Maribyrnong City Council.

The panel summarises the strengths of Model 1 as:

- Use of the existing electoral structure as the basis for minimal change, maintaining the same level of representation for the same geographic areas.
- More recognisable and familiar boundaries for voters, supporting a more seamless transition from multi-councillor to single-councillor wards.
- Use of strong physical barriers to create clear and understandable ward boundaries, such as Geelong Road, Ballarat Road, railway lines and locality boundaries.
- Boundaries that capture communities of interest across the whole council area better than Model 2. Although the proposed Braybrook Ward in Model 1 is unusually shaped, the panel felt that communities of interest would still be retained, and all of West Footscray was contained within one ward.

- Provides a better chance of facilitating good governance outcomes for the Footscray activity centre by allowing for 3 councillors across 3 wards to share the workload and decision-making to manage the growth and change expected to occur in this centre (similar to how the current multi-councillor ward structure operates for this area).
- A more sustainable electoral structure to accommodate growth by spreading it across multiple wards. Based on current population forecasts, Model 1 is expected to still comply with legislated voter deviations by 2028, however Model 2 would be more likely to require a further ward boundary review before 2028.

The panel noted that introducing single-councillor wards represents a large electoral structure change for Maribyrnong City Council. Achieving models that divide communities of interest into appropriate wards, while also accounting for population growth and distribution, as well as ensuring they comply with the +/-10% requirement through to and beyond the 2024 local council elections was challenging. Maribyrnong City Council has groups of voters separated by strong physical barriers that divide communities, such as main roads and railway lines. Future growth is also expected to be unevenly spread across the council area.

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 previous election results for Maribyrnong City Council including the number of candidates who nominated, incidences of uncontested elections and rates of informal voting and found relatively strong candidate numbers across all wards. The panel assumes this trend will continue under a structure of 7 single-councillor wards, minimising the risk of uncontested or failed elections under this structure.

The panel noted valid arguments in favour of and against both single-councillor ward structures examined in this review. Whilst Model 2 received support from submitters, for the reasons outlined in this report, the panel considers Model 1 to be the single-councillor ward model with the best potential to promote fair and equitable representation for voters in Maribyrnong City Council and consequently facilitate good governance under the requirements of the Act.

## **Ward names**

As part of the consultation process, the panel put forward one model with locality or feature-based ward names and one model with previously used ward names, to gauge public opinion. No alternative ward names were proposed by the submitters during the submission process.

The panel noted that both submissions expressed a preference for the ward names used in Model 2, which utilised the same ward names used for the 7 single-councillor ward electoral structure in place prior to 2012. The panel has taken this feedback into account and sought to adopt some of the ward names from Model 2 into the recommended Model 1 where possible, especially where the wards covered similar geographic locations as the electoral structure prior to 2012.

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

- Bluestone Ward: Previously used ward name (prior to 2012) relevant to the new ward area. It reflects the historical association of bluestone quarries that operated in the local area during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.
- Braybrook Ward: New ward name based on the locality of Braybrook which is wholly contained within the ward. This name is registered in the VICNAMES register.
- Burndap Ward: New ward name based on a park in the ward. This name is registered in the VICNAMES register.
- River Ward: Existing ward name under the current electoral structure. It reflects the connection of the ward with the Maribyrnong River.
- Saltwater Ward: Previously used ward name (prior to 2012) relevant to the new ward area. It reflects the original name of Maribyrnong River being Saltwater River.
- Sheoak Ward: Previously used ward name (prior to 2012) relevant to the new ward area. It reflects native flora relevant to the council area.
- Wattle Ward: Previously used ward name (prior to 2012) relevant to the new ward area. It reflects native flora relevant to the council area.

## **The panel's recommendation**

The electoral representation advisory panel recommends that Maribyrnong 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 Bluestone Ward, Braybrook Ward, Burndap Ward, River Ward, Saltwater Ward, Sheoak Ward, and Wattle 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. This electoral structure was designated as Model 1 in the preliminary report.

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

## References

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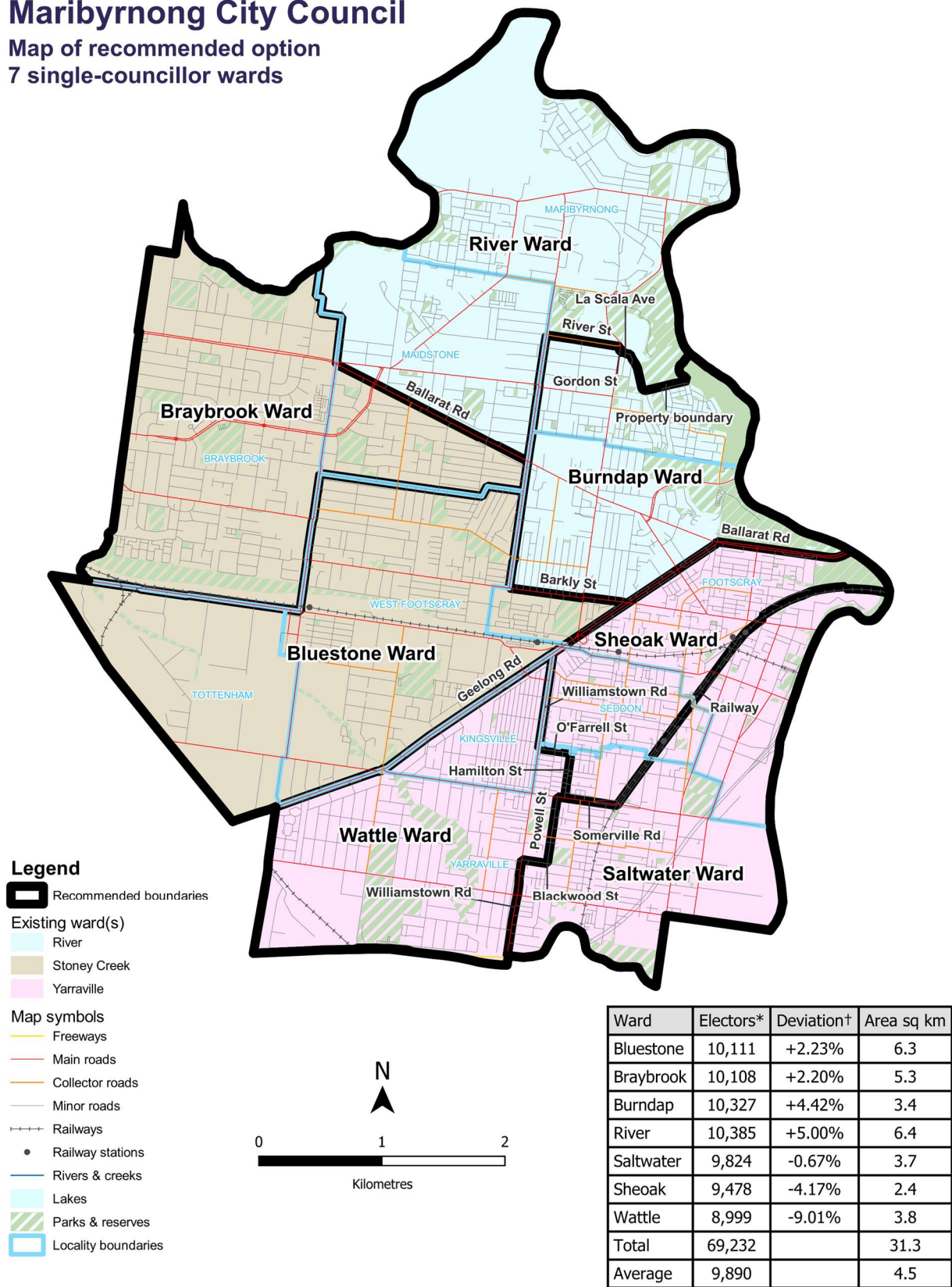
Local Government Act 2020 (Vic).

Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020 (Vic).

# Appendix 1: Map of recommended structure

## Maribyrnong City Council

Map of recommended option  
7 single-councillor wards



Ward	Electors*	Deviation†	Area sq km
Bluestone	10,111	+2.23%	6.3
Braybrook	10,108	+2.20%	5.3
Burndap	10,327	+4.42%	3.4
River	10,385	+5.00%	6.4
Saltwater	9,824	-0.67%	3.7
Sheoak	9,478	-4.17%	2.4
Wattle	8,999	-9.01%	3.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>69,232</b>		<b>31.3</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>9,890</b>		<b>4.5</b>

\*Elector numbers as at 25 July 2023  
†The deviations of all wards are projected to be within +/-10% by the time of the 2024 local government elections.

Data use:  
Layers for alignment:  
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### Data for recommended structure

Ward	Electors*	Deviation†	Area# (square km)
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Braybrook	10,108	+2.20%	5.3
Burdap	10,327	+4.42%	3.4
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\*Elector numbers at 25 July 2023

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

#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 (for example, the ABS).

## **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:

Maddern, Fred

Maribyrnong City Council



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