

Local council electoral structure review

# Final Report

Melton City Council

December 2023

### Acknowledgement of Country

The electoral representation advisory panel acknowledges the Wurrundjeri, Bunurong and Wadawurrung Peoples 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.

### 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

Version	Date approved	Submission approved by	Brief description
1	15 December 2023	Program Sponsor	Final proofread and confirmed to be sent

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## Executive summary

An electoral structure review panel appointed by the Minister for Local Government has reviewed the electoral structure of Melton 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), Melton 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 Melton 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 Melton City Council adopt a 10 single-councillor ward structure – 10 wards with one councillor per ward.

The recommended names for the 10 wards in this electoral structure are Bullum Bullum Ward, Cambrian Ward, Coolibah Ward, Hilltop Ward, Jackwood Ward, Lake Caroline Ward, Mount Atkinson Ward, Stringybark Ward, Sugar Gum Ward, and Watts 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.

Detailed maps of the boundaries for the recommended electoral structure are 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 9 councillors – 9 wards with one councillor per ward.
- Model 2: a subdivided electoral structure with a total of 9 councillors – 9 wards with one councillor per ward, with different ward boundaries to Model 1.
- Model 3: a subdivided electoral structure with a total of 10 councillors – 10 wards with one councillor per ward.

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 3 submissions responding to the preliminary report. None of the submissions received included maps.

A full analysis of response submissions received can be found on [page 16](#).

### Public hearing

An online public hearing for those wishing to speak about their response submission was scheduled for 10 am Wednesday 22 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 Melton City Council) must now have single-councillor ward electoral structures.

For Melton 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 Melton 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 Melton 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.

Melton City was also offered but did not take up 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.

### **Public consultation**

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

## Profile

Melton City Council, formerly Melton Shire Council, was created in 1994 when Melton Shire was amalgamated with parts of the City of Werribee. The municipality is located on Melbourne's rural-urban fringe, 47 km west-northwest of the Melbourne CBD, and covers an area of 528 km<sup>2</sup>. It shares its borders with Macedon Ranges Shire Council to the north, Hume and Brimbank City Councils to the east, Wyndham City Council to the south and Moorabool Shire Council to the west.

The Traditional Custodians of the land on which the municipality sits are the Wurrundjeri, Bunurong, and Wadawurrung Peoples.

## Landscape

Originally centred around the satellite town of Melton, from the 1990s onwards the population in the east rapidly increased as an extension of the growing Melbourne suburban fringe, particularly in the suburbs of Caroline Springs, Hillside and Taylors Hill. Other Melbourne satellite localities in the municipality include Diggers Rest, Eynesbury and Aintree. While the middle of the municipality is no longer considered green wedge land and is designated as a major urban growth corridor, it continues to be the least populated area of the council. The main centres of population remain concentrated in Melton in the west and the suburban Melbourne fringe in the east.

The council area includes 31 suburbs and is serviced by a major transport corridor, the Western Freeway, which runs from Melbourne to Ballarat and ultimately Adelaide. The Melton Highway services the area also, as does the Calder Freeway - which forms the northeast boundary of the municipality. The Ballarat, Bendigo and Maryborough rail lines service the council area.

Important geographical features include the Werribee River, Melton Reservoir and Mount Cottrell. Situated on the eastern edge of the Victorian Volcanic Plain, the Melton area is largely flat and fertile.

## Population and community

In 2021 the population of the council area was approximately 178,960 (ABS 2022a), an increase of 63.7% since 2011 when the population was 109,259. At 5.2% pa, population growth in the City of Melton is the second highest for a Victorian council. In the 10 years to 2021, the population of the municipality increased by 63.7% and the population is estimated to reach 231,968 by 2028. The projected population growth areas hug the Ballarat rail corridor, the Western Freeway and Melton Highway.

The median age of 33 years is significantly lower than in Greater Melbourne (37) and Victoria (38), while at 6.5%, unemployment is higher than the metropolitan and state averages (ABS 2022a, 2022b). The education level of residents is lower than in Greater Melbourne and Victoria (ABS 2022a, ABS 2022b).

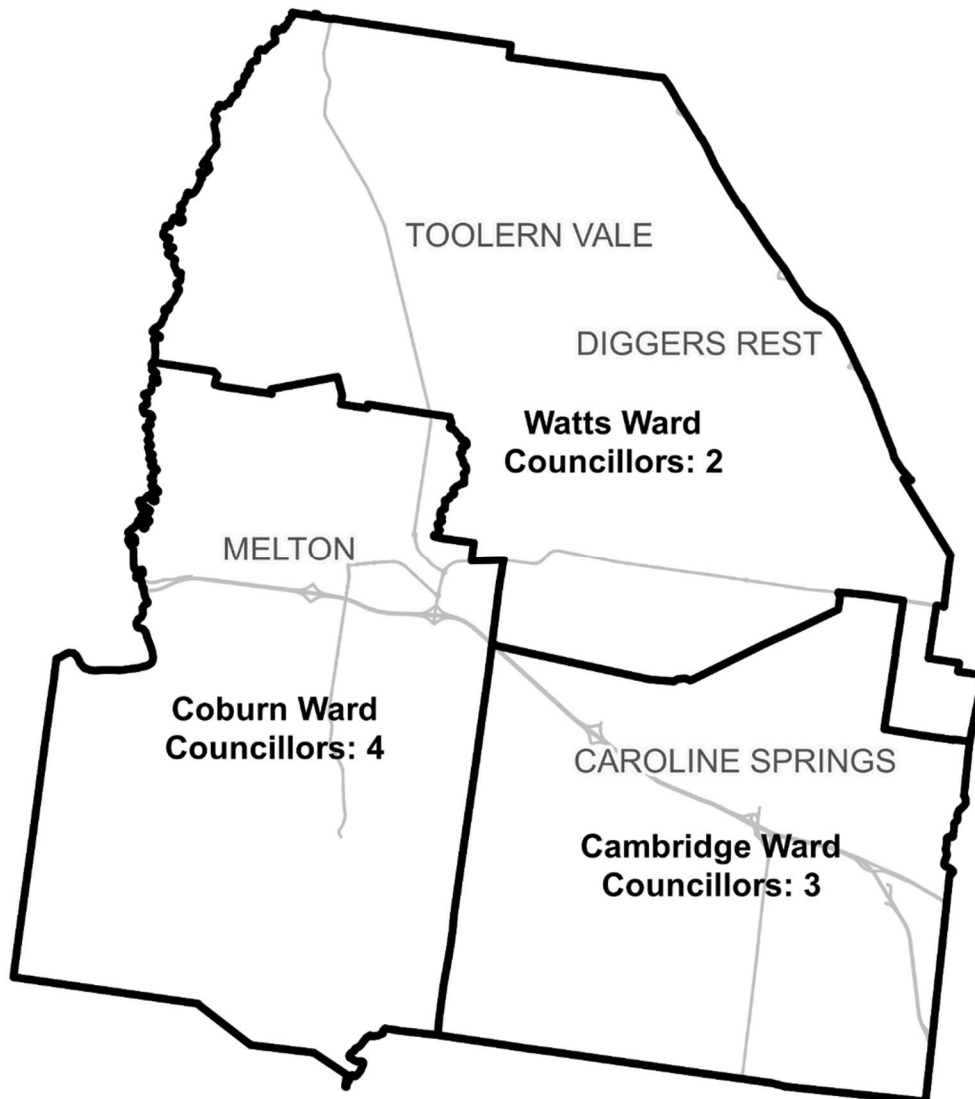
Home ownership, at 74.6%, is higher than the Greater Melbourne rate of 66.8% (owned outright and with a mortgage), while the proportion of households renting is lower (22.6% compared with 30.2%) (ABS 2022a, ABS 2022b). The weekly median household income is \$1,887, which is comparable to the median for Greater Melbourne of \$1,901 (ABS 2022a, ABS 2022b).

The population is very diverse. Nearly 60% of residents have both parents born overseas, higher than the average for Greater Melbourne (ABS 2022a, ABS 2022b). Over half (54.3%) of the population speaks only English at home, which is slightly lower than the rate for Greater Melbourne overall (ABS 2022a, ABS 2022b). The number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander people at the 2021 census was 1.2%, nearly double the 0.7% found across Greater Melbourne (ABS 2022a, ABS 2022b).

## Current number of councillors and electoral structure

Melton City Council is currently divided into 3 wards with a total of 9 councillors:

- one ward with 4 councillors (Coburn)
- one ward with 3 councillors (Cambridge)
- one ward with 2 councillors (Watts)



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

There are approximately 120,696 voters in Melton City Council, with an approximate ratio of 13,410 voters per councillor.

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

## Last electoral structure review

The electoral representation review conducted in 2008 recommended to the Minister that the number of councillors be maintained and that the 7 wards be decreased to 3 wards of 3, 2 and 2 councillors, a recommendation that was accepted.

The electoral representation review conducted in 2015 recommended to the Minister that the number of councillors be increased from 7 to 9 and that the structure be altered to 3 wards of 4, 3 and 2 councillors, a recommendation that was accepted.

The electoral representation reviews in 2008 and 2015 were conducted under the *Local Government Act 1989* (Vic), which was replaced by the *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic).

Visit the VEC website at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au) to access a copy of the final report of the 2015 electoral representation review.

## 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 9 councillors – 9 wards with one councillor per ward.
- Model 2: a subdivided electoral structure with a total of 9 councillors – 9 wards with one councillor per ward, with different ward boundaries to Model 1.
- Model 3: a subdivided electoral structure with a total of 10 councillors – 10 wards with one councillor per ward.

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 3 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 (9 single-councillor wards)	Model 2 (9 single-councillor wards)	Model 3 (10 single-councillor wards)
1	-	2

Of the 3 submissions, 2 supported Model 3 and one supported Model 1. The submitter supporting Model 1 came from Rockbank, which is located along the Western Freeway in the centre of the council area. One of the submitters supporting Model 3 was from Eynesbury, a town outside of the major population centres at the southern end of the council, while the other was from Diggers Rest, a town located at the northern end. The panel noted that neither Melton City Council, nor any of its councillors, made a submission to the review.

### Model 1

Kaitlyn Menhennet felt that Rockbank and surrounding ‘middle area’ localities of the council area would be better served under Model 1. Indeed, it was argued that Model 1 provided a good mix of established and developing areas across the wards covering the middle localities, which as a result, would encourage council to consider a range of aspects when planning budgets for these areas.

Arguing against Model 1, Garrick Oates felt it would leave the locality of Eynesbury as an ‘outlier’ if included alongside the communities in a ward with Weir Views and Melton South and a ‘non-entity’ when it came to voting power. Shaun McKerral felt that while Diggers Rest would be the largest population centre in the biggest ward, other places might miss out or not be represented effectively and that this was not fair.

### Model 2

While no submitters supported Model 2, Garrick Oates criticised it for dividing Melton South across 2 wards, including Weir View in Oakridge Ward and creating a north versus south situation in Coolibah Ward, whereby 80% of electors would reside north of the Werribee River.

### Model 3

Welcoming the introduction of single-councillor wards, both submitters supporting Model 3 felt their local areas were not represented effectively or fairly in the current structure. They considered Model 3 the best structure to cater to their local interests. Kaitlyn Menhennet argued against Model 3, stating the apparent approach to grouping wards in the growth corridor would lead to unequal funding distribution from council.



## **Public hearing**

An online public hearing for those wishing to speak about their response submission was scheduled for 10 am on 22 November 2023. As no submitters asked to speak, the hearing did not go ahead.

## Findings and recommendation

### Number of councillors

After considering the requirements of the Act, public submissions and the agreed criteria, the panel found 10 councillors to be an appropriate number for Melton City Council.

The panel considered the characteristics of Melton City Council in relation to similar interface councils, including its size and geography, population and the number and distribution of voters across the council area. Melton City Council currently has 116,095 voters represented by 9 councillors and covers an area of 528 km<sup>2</sup>. Other interface councils with a similar number of voters usually also have between 9 and 11 councillors.

Underpinning the panel's decision to increase the number of councillors to 10 was the municipalities' high growth profile. The council is the second fastest growing in the state with a forecast yearly growth rate of 5.2% through to 2028. This rapid growth, particularly in the centre of the council area, will likely increase councillor workloads to meet growing infrastructure and planning demands. The panel felt that such growth would inevitably bring Melton City's population closer to other 11-councillor interface councils, such as Hume City and Mornington Peninsula Shire, and found that increasing to 10 councillors in the interim was a satisfactory compromise.

Furthermore, in the preliminary phase the panel explored whether an increase in the number of councillors would enable single-councillor ward structures to be created that may provide more favourable representation for the community. As a result, the panel put forward one option with an increased number of councillors: Model 3.

### Electoral structure

After considering the requirements of the Act, public submissions and the agreed criteria, the panel found Model 3 to be the single-councillor ward model with the best potential to promote fair and equitable representation for voters in Melton City Council and consequently facilitate good governance. The panel found that the ward structure in Model 3 would better serve the various communities of interest found within Melton City Council, while supporting the rapid growth forecast to occur in the near future.

Other than facilitating an increase to 10 councillors (discussed above), the panel favoured the recommended model for the following reasons:

- Captures the large growth corridor running through the middle of the council within 6 relatively even and compact wards configured along the major transport corridors of the Western Freeway and Ballarat railway line.
- Provides a more equitable division in the north of the council (in Stringybark and Hilltop wards), and the south of the council (in Coolibah and Mount Atkinson wards), compared to Model 1 and 2.

- Provides smaller townships and communities along the council's northern and southern boundaries, namely Diggers Rest and Eynesbury, with a better chance of achieving effective, local representation than other models.
- Makes good use of recognisable features such the Western Freeway, Melton Highway, the Ballarat railway line, Werribee River, Kororoit Creek and Toolern Creek as ward boundaries.

A key feature of the recommended model is how the wards are structured through the centre of the council. In the centre-west, Cambrian and Watts wards focus on the central parts of Melton around the Western Freeway. In the centre-east, the four wards of Jackwood, Sugar Gum, Lake Caroline, and Bullum Bullum focus on the outer suburbs of Melbourne such as Taylors Hill, Caroline Springs, Hillside, and Burnside Heights, while also catering for the growth corridor forming around Aintree and Deanside.

The south of the council is divided into 2 wards. The south-western Coolibah Ward captures the remainder of Melton South (not found in Watts Ward) and surrounds, with the locality of Eynesbury included in the far south. In the south-east, Mount Atkinson Ward caters for the middle growth suburbs of Rockbank and Thornhill Park, which are grouped with other localities south of the Western Highway like Strathulloh, Ravenhall, and the area of Truganina found within Melton City.

The north of the municipality is divided into 2 wards. The north-western Stringybark Ward captures the northern Melton fringe and the remaining northern rural area, including Toolern Vale, using Toolern Creek as a strong eastern boundary. The north-eastern Hilltop Ward captures Diggers Rest and surrounds, Plumpton, and the area of Hillside north of Melton Highway.

The panel notes valid arguments both in favour of and against the different single-councillor ward structures examined in this review. However, the panel considers Model 3 to be the single-councillor ward model with the best potential to promote fair and equitable representation for voters in Melton City Council and consequently facilitate good governance under the requirements of the Act.

The panel noted that introducing single-councillor wards represents a large electoral structure change for Melton 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. In addition, due to the high and variable population growth across the council area, it was necessary to set some current ward deviations outside +/-10% to increase the likelihood of ward deviations being within the +/-10% requirement at the time of the 2024 election. Despite best efforts, the panel acknowledges that, due to the volatility of population growth as well as the uncertain impacts of changes to council voting entitlements under the Act, that there remains a small risk that some wards may remain or move outside +/-10% by the time of the 2024 election.

While it is difficult to predict the number of candidates likely to stand at future elections, past election results provide some indication. The panel examined past election results for Melton City Council including numbers of candidates nominating, instances of uncontested elections and rates of informal voting. It found there to have been relatively strong candidate numbers across the council area wards under the current electoral structure. The panel assumes this trend will continue under a structure of 10 single-councillor wards, minimising the risk of uncontested or failed elections under this structure.

## Ward names

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

- Bullum Bullum Ward: New name based on a park in the ward. This name is registered in the VICNAMES register. Bullum Bullum is a Wurundjeri word for white butterfly.
- Cambrian Ward: New name based on a park and road in the ward. This name is registered in the VICNAMES register.
- Coolibah Ward: New name based on a creek in the ward. This name is registered in the VICNAMES register.
- Hilltop Ward: New name based on a park in the ward. This name is registered in the VICNAMES register.
- Jackwood Ward: New name based on a park in the ward. This name is registered in the VICNAMES register.
- Lake Caroline Ward: New name based on a large man-made lake in the ward. This name is registered in the VICNAMES register. Named after Caroline Chisholm, a 19<sup>th</sup> century philanthropist who set up accommodation for travellers going between Melbourne and the Victorian goldfields.
- Mount Atkinson Ward: New name based on a natural feature centrally located in the ward. This name is registered in the VICNAMES register.
- Stringybark Ward: New name based on a hill located in the north of the ward. This name is registered in the VICNAMES register.
- Sugar Gum Ward: New name based on a park in the ward. This name is registered in the VICNAMES register.
- Watts Ward: Existing ward name based on a park in the ward. This name is registered in the VICNAMES register. Named after Hannah Watts, a renowned nurse and midwife who established Melton's first hospital.

The panel decided to change the name Fieldstone (which was based on a small locality) to Mount Atkinson as it was felt this name better suited the area.

## **The panel's recommendation**

The electoral representation advisory panel recommends that Melton City Council adopt a 10 single-councillor ward structure – 10 wards with one councillor per ward.

The recommended names for the 10 wards in this electoral structure are Bullum Bullum Ward, Cambrian Ward, Coolibah Ward, Hilltop Ward, Jackwood Ward, Lake Caroline Ward, Mount Atkinson Ward, Stringybark Ward, Sugar Gum Ward, and Watts 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 3 in the preliminary report.

Detailed maps of the boundaries for the recommended electoral structure are provided as [Appendix 1](#).

## References

ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) (2022a) [2021 Melton, Census All persons QuickStats](#), ABS, accessed 1 September 2023

— (2022b) [2021 Census All Person Quickstats, Greater Melbourne](#), ABS website, accessed 1 September 2023

Geographic Place Names Act 1998 (Vic)

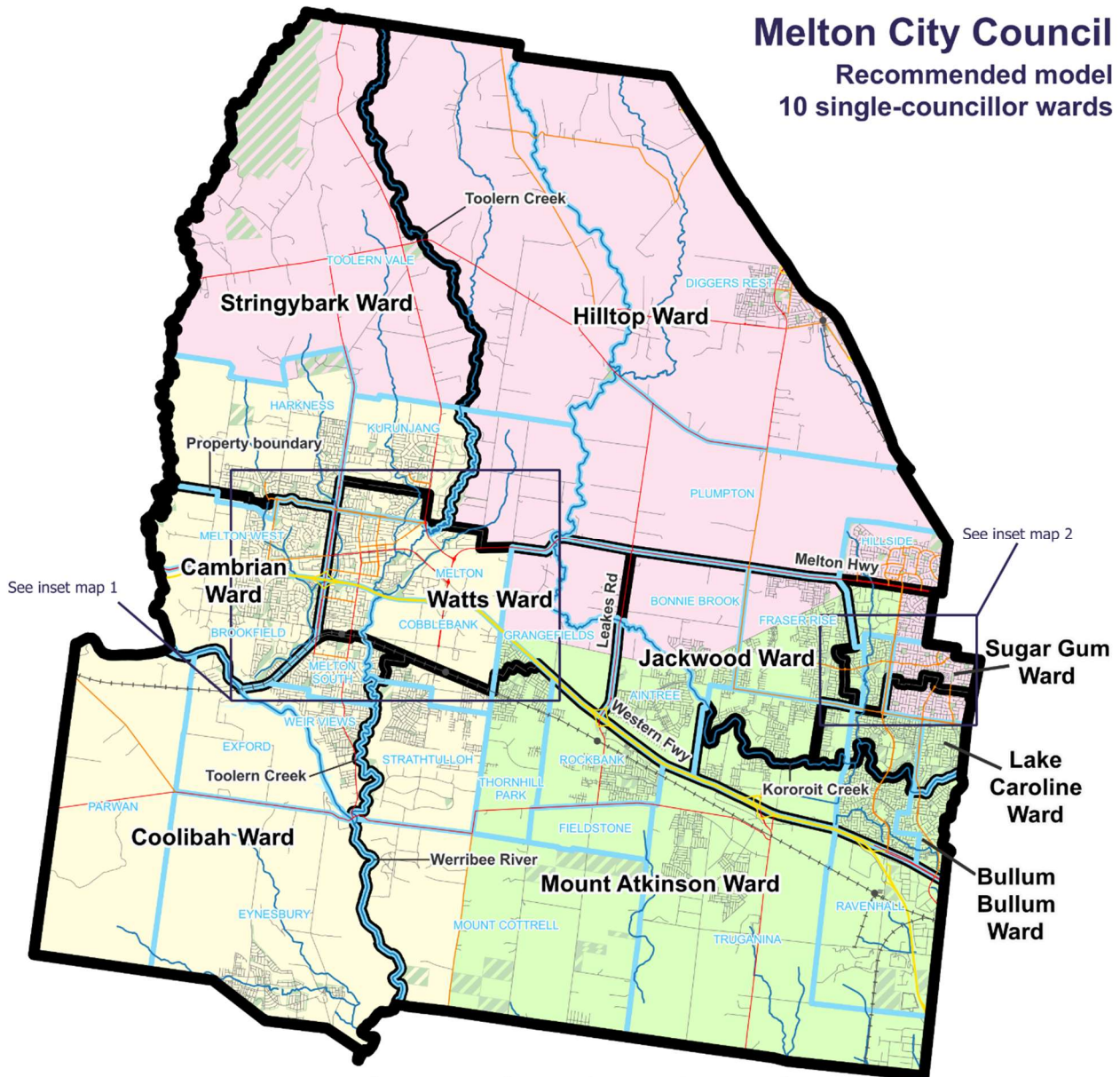
Local Government Act 1989 (Vic)

Local Government Act 2020 (Vic)

Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020 (Vic)

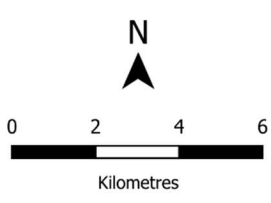
# Appendix 1: Map of recommended structure

## Melton City Council Recommended model 10 single-councillor wards



See inset map 1

See inset map 2



Ward	Electors*	Deviation†	Area sq km
Bullum Bullum	12,888	+2.86%	12.7
Cambrian	13,930	+11.18%	20.4
Coolibah	11,021	-12.04%	79.3
Hilltop	11,963	-4.52%	141.4
Jackwood	11,367	-9.28%	30.0
Lake Caroline	14,442	+15.26%	8.3
Mount Atkinson	9,232	-26.32%	117.7
Stringybark	12,884	+2.83%	78.2
Sugar Gum	14,483	+15.59%	7.9
Watts	13,087	+4.45%	31.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>125,297</b>		<b>527.7</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>12,530</b>		<b>52.8</b>

### Legend

- Recommended boundaries
- Existing ward(s)**
  - Cambridge
  - Coburn
  - Watts
- Map symbols**
  - Freeways
  - Collector roads
  - Main roads
  - Minor roads
  - Railways
  - Railway stations
  - Rivers & creeks
  - Lakes
  - Parks & reserves
  - Locality boundaries

\*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.

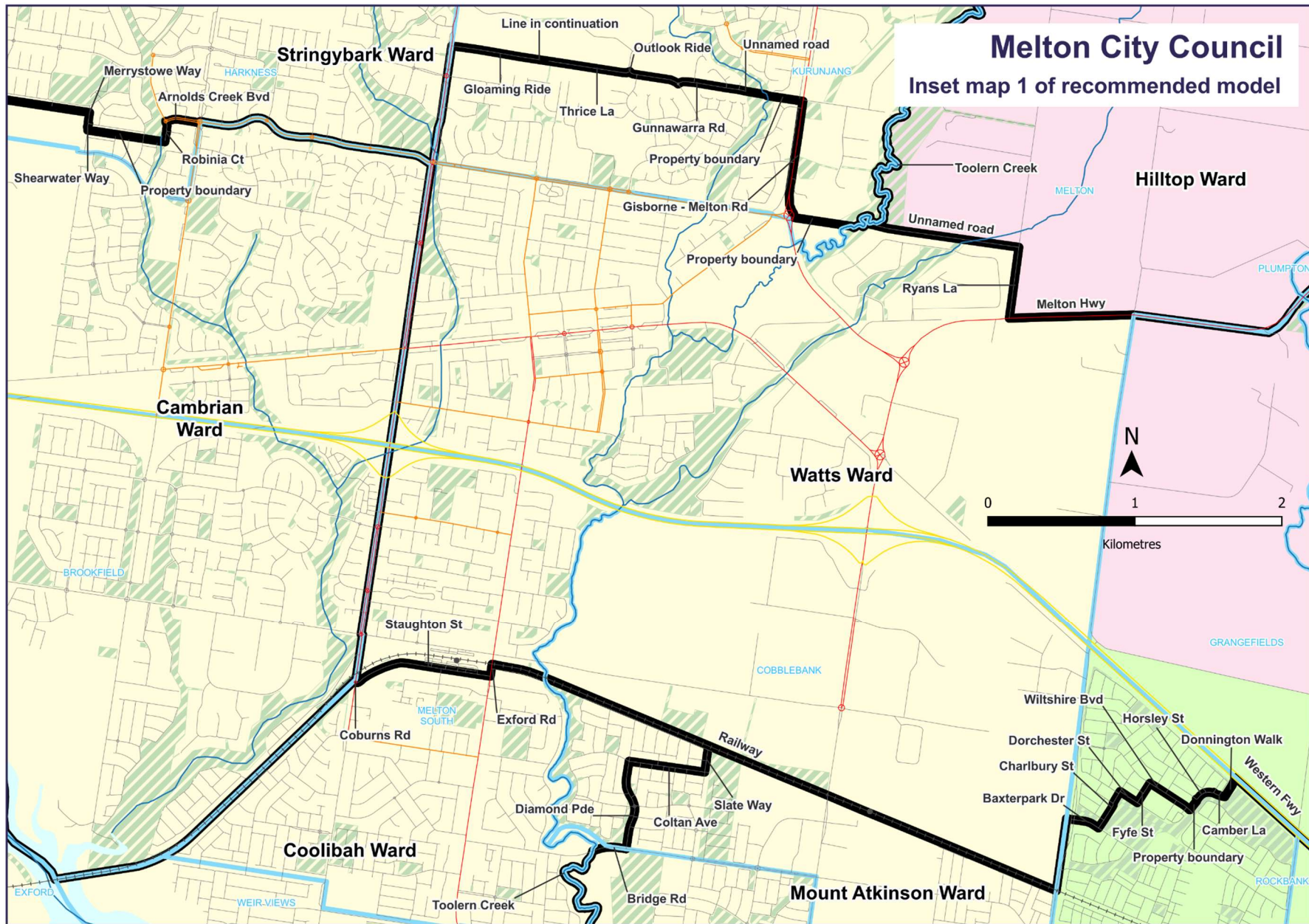
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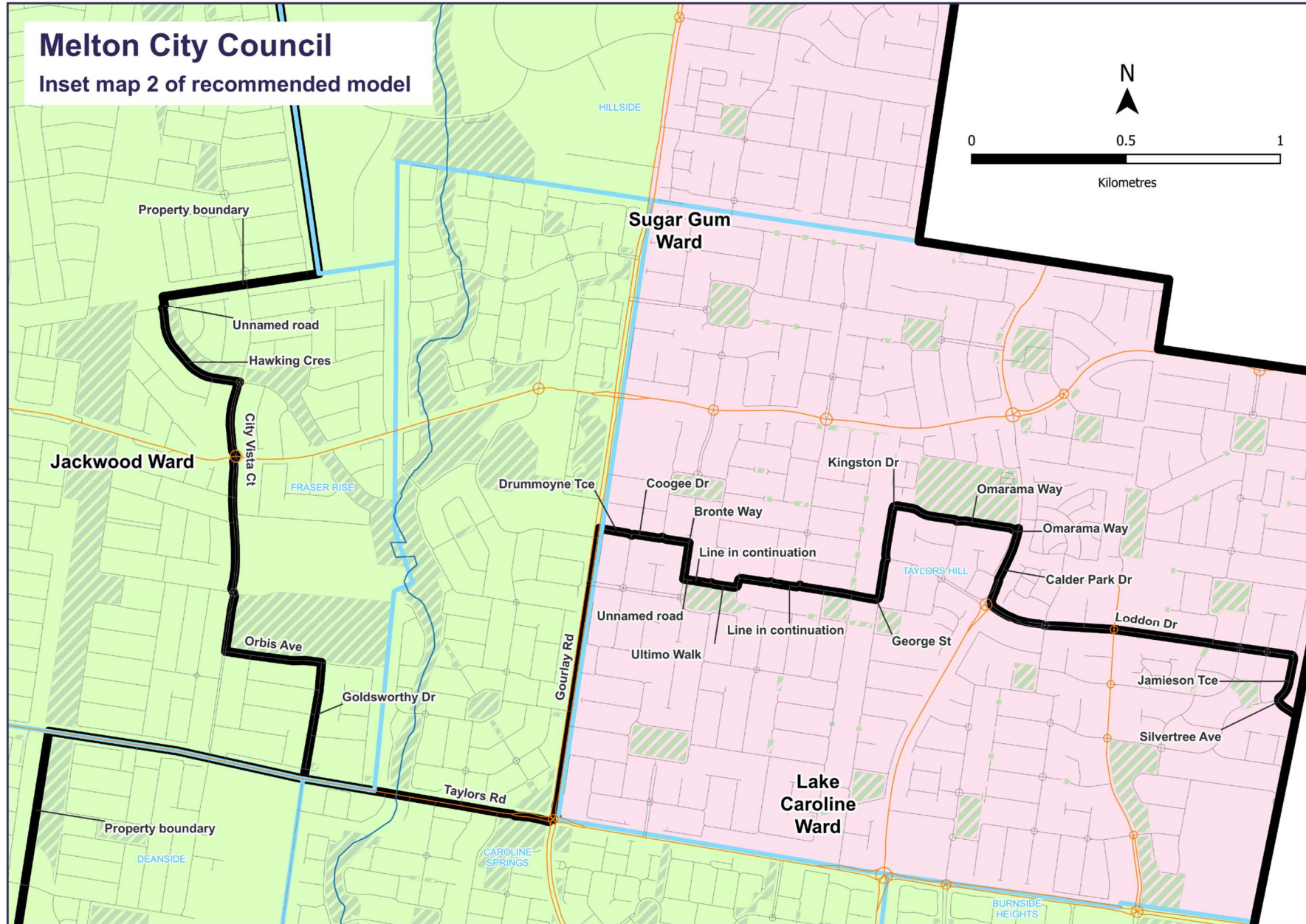
Layers for alignment:  
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**Data for recommended structure**

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Electors*</b>	<b>Deviation†</b>	<b>Area# (square km)</b>
Bullum Bullum Ward	12,888	+2.86%	12.7
Cambrian Ward	13,930	+11.18%	20.4
Coolibah	11,021	-12.04%	79.3
Hilltop	11,963	-4.52%	141.4
Jackwood	11,367	-9.28%	30
Lake Caroline Ward	14,442	+15.26%	8.3
Mount Atkinson	9,232	-26.32%	117.7
Stringybark	12,884	+2.83%	78.2
Sugar Gum Ward	14,483	+15.59%	7.9
<b>Total</b>	125,297	-	527.7
<b>Average</b>	12,530	-	52.8

\*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 (e.g. ABS).

## **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:

McKerral, Shaun

Menhennet, Kaitlyn

Oates, Garrick

### **Public hearing**

There was no public hearing held.

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