

FINAL REPORT

Electoral Representation Review

Hobsons Bay City Council



24 May 2004



Our ref: 8350

24 May 2004

The Hon. C Broad, MP
Minister for Local Government
Level 21
Nauru House
80 Collins Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Dear Minister,

HOBSONS BAY CITY COUNCIL ELECTORAL REPRESENTATION REVIEW

In accordance with Section 219F (10) of the Local Government Act 1989, I am pleased to provide herewith the final report on the electoral representation review conducted for Hobsons Bay City Council.

A copy of the final report has also been forwarded to Council.

Yours sincerely

C A Barry
Electoral Commissioner

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1 Summary of recommendations

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) is required under the legislation for electoral representation reviews to make a recommendation as to the number of councillors and the electoral structure that provide fair and equitable representation for the voters of the City of Hobsons Bay (s219D *Local Government Act 1989*).

The VEC recommends that the Hobsons Bay City Council consist of seven councillors to be elected from seven single-councillor wards.

This recommended structure is indicated in the map on the back page of this report.

2 Background

2.1 Legislative basis

The *Local Government (Democratic Reform) Act 2003*, which amended the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act), was passed by the Parliament in Spring 2003. The amendments included provisions for independent electoral representation reviews of all Victorian councils. In accordance with this new legislation, the Hobsons Bay City Council received notice pursuant to section 219C of the Act from the Minister for Local Government that an electoral representation review was to be conducted for the Hobsons Bay City Council. The notice appeared in the *Victoria Government Gazette* on 15 December 2003.

Under the legislation, a Council is required to appoint an electoral commission to conduct an electoral representation review. On 19 January 2004 the Hobsons Bay City Council appointed the VEC to conduct its review.

The purpose of an electoral representation review is to recommend an electoral structure that provides fair and equitable representation for the persons who are entitled to vote at a general election of the Council. Matters to be considered by the review are:

- a) the number of councillors;
- b) the electoral structure of the City (whether the City should be unsubdivided or divided into wards; and, if the City is to be subdivided, the number of wards and the number of councillors to be elected for each ward); and
- c) if the recommendation is for the City to be divided into wards, boundaries for the wards that will:
 - i. provide for a fair and equitable division of the City; and
 - ii. ensure equality of representation, through the number of voters represented by each councillor being within 10% of the average number of voters represented by all councillors.

2.2 The VEC and representation reviews

The Electoral Commissioner, Mr Colin Barry, is responsible for the electoral representation review. Mr Barry is a member of the Electoral Boundaries Commission (which conducts redivisions of State Parliamentary electoral boundaries) and has led the VEC's ward boundary work for councils since 1994.

The VEC has engaged Mr Vern Robson to provide expertise in the field of local government. Mr Robson has worked in local government since 1955, and has been the Town Clerk and Chief Executive Officer of the City of Warrnambool, the Chief Commissioner of the City of Ballarat, the Administrator of the Mansfield Shire Council and the Director of the Local Government Branch of the Department of Infrastructure.

The VEC has had ten years' experience in working on municipal ward boundaries, being contracted by councils to prepare options for their consideration. VEC staff have also worked for the Electoral Boundaries Commission in State redivisions. In doing this work, the VEC has used sophisticated mapping software, and has developed expertise in preparing electoral boundaries that both comply with legislative approximate equality requirements and respect communities of interest.

2.3 Municipality profile

The City of Hobsons Bay was formed in 1994 by the amalgamation of the Cities of Altona and Williamstown, the Laverton area of the City of Werribee and the Kingsville South district and Francis Street wharf area of the City of Footscray. Hobsons Bay is a metropolitan municipality covering the coastal western suburbs of Melbourne. With an area of 65 square kilometres, it has a population of about 84,000. The population is projected to grow slowly over the next eight years, as a result of infill development. Hobsons Bay is the focus of Victoria's chemical and petroleum industries, and contains some of the State's largest industrial enterprises. The City has a higher proportion of persons employed in manufacturing, transport and defence than the metropolitan area as a whole, and a lower proportion of persons employed in education, health and community services. Hobsons Bay has a somewhat higher proportion of low-income earners than the metropolitan average, and fewer high-income earners. A relatively high proportion of Hobsons Bay's population speaks a language other than English (29.3% compared with 25.8% for the metropolitan area), though the proportion of overseas-born residents is only slightly above the metropolitan average (29.85 to 28.6%). Two-thirds of the overseas-born residents arrived in Australia before 1986, with relatively few recent arrivals. The population is less mobile than the State average. (Sources: Australian Bureau of Statistics; Victorian Department of Infrastructure: *Victoria in Future*; Hobsons Bay City Council Community Profile)

2.4 Current electoral structure

At present, the Hobsons Bay City Council has four wards with two councillors elected for each ward.

3 Electoral representation review process

3.1 Public consultation

To ensure appropriate community consultation, the VEC developed a framework for the electoral representation review that focussed on:

- creating an awareness of the review process through an advertising and public relations strategy;
- developing and issuing an information leaflet for Hobsons Bay voters;

-
- conducting an information session at the Hobsons Bay City Council offices in Altona on Thursday, 4 March 2004, to outline the review process and to respond to questions from members of the community;
 - communicating with the Hobsons Bay City Council community through the use of media releases and the VEC website;
 - ensuring the review process remained transparent by publishing all preliminary submissions and making them available to the public;
 - releasing a Preliminary Report on 12 April 2004 and making the Report available at the Council offices, the VEC and on the VEC website;
 - conducting a public hearing at the Hobsons Bay City Council offices on Monday, 10 May 2004; and
 - providing information for those persons or organisations with an interest in the review process, by establishing a help line for responding to community questions and distributing a guide to assist those persons who decide to make preliminary submissions for consideration by the VEC.

3.2 Advertising

The VEC published the following advertisements for the representation review:

- a public notice of the representation review (in accordance with s219F(4) of the Act), which detailed the process for the review and called for public submissions, appearing in the *Hobsons Bay Times* on 24 February 2004 and in *The Mail* and *The Star* on 25 February 2004;
- a general advertisement covering several electoral representation reviews, including the Hobsons Bay City Council review, appearing in the *Herald Sun* on 13 February 2004; and
- a notice of the Preliminary Report (in accordance with s219F(7) of the Act), appearing in the *Hobsons Bay Times* on 13 April 2004 and in *The Mail* and *The Star* on 14 April 2004.

See Appendix 9.1.

3.3 Information leaflet

An information leaflet was delivered to households within the City of Hobsons Bay on 21-22 February 2004. See Appendix 9.2.

3.4 Media releases

Media releases regarding the Hobsons Bay City Council review were distributed to the *Hobsons Bay Times*, *The Mail* and *The Star* on 25 February and 12 April 2004. See Appendix 9.3.

3.5 VEC website

The VEC used its website to deliver information and to provide transparency in the review process. All preliminary submissions were posted to the website to facilitate public access to this information. The VEC website can be viewed at www.vec.vic.gov.au

3.6 VEC support for public enquiries regarding the review

The VEC established a help line to assist with public enquiries concerning the process for the electoral representation review. In addition the VEC developed and distributed a guide for those people wanting to make a preliminary submission. See Appendix 9.4.

4 Consideration of the number of councillors

The electoral representation review provisions of the *Local Government Act 1989* provide that the purpose of the review is to consider two matters. The first matter is the number of councillors for the municipality and the second matter is the electoral structure of the municipality.

In regard to the number of councillors, the legislation provides that a council must consist of not fewer than 5 councillors and not more than 12 councillors (s5B(1)).

The legislation does not prescribe the matters to be considered by the reviewer in recommending the number of councillors for a municipality.

The VEC has therefore been required to identify the appropriate matters to take into account when considering the number of councillors.

Parliament has provided for a range of councillors from 5 to 12 that can constitute a council. The range of councillors was to provide for those councils that have large numbers of voters and those councils that have smaller numbers of voters. The size of councils across Victoria in terms of voters varies from 4,131 to 155,000. The VEC has formed the view that Parliament intended these provisions of the Act to work in a logical way, with those councils that have the largest number of voters having the most councillors, and those councils that have the least number of voters having fewer councillors.

In most cases, the electoral structure and the number of councillors for the newly constituted councils were established by the Commissioners when local government was restructured between 1993 and 1995. Commissioners did not have the benefit of a State-wide reference when considering the appropriate number of councillors for their respective municipalities. The result was a degree of disparity in councillor numbers for similar types of municipalities. The VEC has produced a table that lists each municipality and the voter/councillor ratio. The table differentiates between rural, regional and metropolitan councils. The table has been a valuable reference point in considering the appropriate number of councillors by recognising the different circumstances and needs between these categories of councils. This information was made available to the public in the Guide for Submissions, and has assisted the VEC to compare a council being reviewed with councils with similar voter numbers and areas.

The VEC also considers whether the number of voters in the municipality is anticipated to increase or decline in the period between reviews (8 years). Population forecasts produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Victorian Department of Infrastructure have been used to assist the VEC in making this assessment.

In addition, the VEC considers any special issues or circumstances that may require a council to have more councillors than would otherwise be the case. The public consultation process provides valuable information regarding any such issues or circumstances.

In considering representation options for each council, the VEC takes into account submissions received. Submissions are not weighed up in numbers, as this would constitute a “straw poll”, but rather, the substance of the arguments and the perspectives they present are taken into consideration in coming to a view on the most appropriate number of councillors.

The VEC is implementing the approach outlined above as the way to fulfil its legislative obligation to make its recommendation to the Minister on the appropriate number of councillors.

5 Preliminary Report

In accordance with section 219F(6) of the Act, the VEC prepared a Preliminary Report containing the VEC’s proposed options for the City of Hobsons Bay. In developing these options, the VEC considered preliminary submissions made by individuals and organisations. The VEC also considered other relevant factors, which are outlined in section 5.2 of this Report.

5.1 Preliminary submissions

By the closing time for submissions (5.00 pm Monday, 22 March 2004), the VEC had received 104 preliminary submissions. Many of these submissions were form letters.

Opinions in the submissions on the number of councillors varied, with the suggested number ranging from five to 11. More than half of the submissions supported nine councillors. Thirty-five submissions supported increasing the number of councillors to eleven. No submission supported the status quo of eight councillors.

Opinions on the Council’s electoral structure also varied. The great majority of submissions (71) recommended a change to a single-councillor ward structure. A substantial number of submissions (23) urged an unsubdivided municipality, arguing that this system had worked well during the period of the former City of Altona. Several submissions supported a multi-councillor ward structure, with three three-councillor wards the most popular configuration. No submission supported retaining the current structure of four two-councillor wards.

See Appendix 9.5 for details of the persons and organisations making preliminary submissions. Copies of the submissions can be downloaded from the VEC website, www.vec.vic.gov.au

5.2 Other relevant factors

In undertaking all reviews, the VEC takes into account such other relevant factors as:

- the requirements of the Act as to the number of councillors permitted;
- fairness and equity of representation;
- the total number of voters and their geographic distribution;
- anticipated changes in the total number of voters;
- the number of councillors for similar sized Victorian municipalities;
- the workload and responsibilities of councillors including council business requirements;
- consideration of communities of interest within the City; and
- using logical boundaries such as main roads, physical features and existing boundaries for easy identification of wards.

5.3 Recommended options

Having considered the preliminary submissions and all other relevant factors, the VEC proposed two options for the City of Hobsons Bay.

The VEC's preferred option was:

- **That the Hobsons Bay City Council consist of seven councillors to be elected from seven single-councillor wards.**

The VEC's alternative option was:

- That the Hobsons Bay City Council consist of nine councillors to be elected from three three-councillor wards.

6 Response submissions

In accordance with section 219F(7) of the Act, the VEC invited written submissions in response to the Preliminary Report. The VEC required submissions to be limited to commenting on the options set out in the Preliminary Report.

The deadline for submissions was 5.00 pm on Tuesday, 4 May 2004.

The VEC received a total of 303 response submissions. The majority of the submissions were form letters, with 154 cases of one form letter and smaller numbers of others.

Eighteen submissions supported the VEC's preferred option of seven single-councillor wards, and eighteen other submissions would have preferred nine single-councillor wards but were prepared to accept seven. A clear majority of submissions (256) favoured the VEC's alternative option of three three-councillor wards. Four submissions advocated nine single-councillor wards and rejected the VEC's preferred option, and a total of seven submissions favoured a range of other models.

As stated above, the VEC considers the evidence and the quality of arguments in all submissions.

See Appendix 9.5 for details of those persons and organisations making response submissions. Copies of the submissions can be downloaded from the VEC website, www.vec.vic.gov.au

7 Public hearing

A public hearing was held on Monday, 10 May 2004 at the Altona Civic Centre. The hearing provided an opportunity for people who had requested in their submissions to speak publicly on them to amplify and explain their arguments. The duration of the hearing was from 6.30 to 9.15 pm, and some 70 people attended. There were 14 speakers, including the Deputy Mayor and four other councillors. Nine of the speakers advocated the VEC's alternative option of three three-councillor wards, and four speakers argued for single-councillor wards.

8 Findings and recommendations

The VEC's task is to recommend the number of councillors and an electoral structure that provides fair and equitable representation for the voters of the City of Hobsons Bay. In coming to its recommendation, the VEC has considered a number of critical factors collectively.

8.1 Number of councillors

In the Preliminary Report, the VEC's preferred option was for seven councillors. In light of the frequent deadlocks in the current eight-member council, the VEC considered that there should be an odd number of councillors, which would facilitate clear policy direction on a majority decision basis. This meant that the choice was between seven and nine councillors. As explained above, the VEC considers the number of councillors for a municipality in the context of the other municipalities across the State. The current number of voters per councillor in Hobsons Bay (7,900) is well below the average for metropolitan councils (10,872). With nine councillors, the voter/councillor ratio for Hobsons Bay would be 7,022, while with seven councillors the ratio would be 9,028, which is closer to the metropolitan average. The VEC stated in the Preliminary Report that Hobsons Bay did not appear to have particular features justifying a markedly lower than average voter/councillor ratio.

Several response submissions and speakers at the public hearing argued that Hobsons Bay has special characteristics justifying more councillors. Stated factors include a high proportion of unenrolled residents, socio-economic disadvantage requiring additional councillor services, a multicultural population, large numbers of Defence Force personnel and students, and heavy and hazardous industries. Councillors are involved with many community committees, and it was argued that their workload would be excessive with fewer councillors. It was stated that the heavy and hazardous industries in the municipality required councillor attention. It was also argued that more councillors would be needed to represent Hobsons Bay's growing population, which was predicted to rise by 17,500 by 2030.

However, the VEC considers that the magnitude of these features is not sufficient to justify an increase in the number of councillors from that recommended in the Preliminary Report. Hobsons Bay's population is growing, partly as a result of infill developments, but the growth is not dramatic. Population projections for the year 2030 are irrelevant to this review, which is concerned with the coming eight years. For this period, population growth figures mentioned in submissions and by speakers ranged from 2,000 to 6,000. Information available to the VEC suggests that population growth will be at the lower end of this range. Hobsons Bay has a fairly high proportion of residents from non-English speaking backgrounds (22.2% compared with the metropolitan area's 21.3%), but there are relatively few recent arrivals to Australia (18% of people born overseas arrived between 1991 and 2001, compared with 24% in the Melbourne metropolitan area), and the proportion of residents who are not fluent in English (5.9%) is not greatly above the figure for Victoria (4%). Hobsons Bay has a greater share of low-income households and a smaller share of high-income households than Melbourne as a whole, but the differences are not dramatic (27.6% of Hobsons Bay households are in the lowest income group compared with the metropolitan area's 25%, and 21.6% of Hobsons Bay households are in the highest income group compared with the metropolitan area's 25%).

In relation to councillors' workloads, the VEC does not consider that a reduction from eight to seven councillors would impose an unmanageable additional burden on councillors.

Consequently, the VEC confirms its view that seven is the appropriate number of councillors for Hobsons Bay for the next eight years.

8.2 Electoral structure

Having determined the number of councillors, the VEC considers that seven single-councillor wards best divide the City to reflect communities of interest. The VEC examined an unsubdivided structure, but believes that this structure would not be appropriate for a diverse and geographically extensive municipality.

The VEC considers that the single-councillor ward model facilitates the representation of the well defined and diverse communities of interest that exist within the City of Hobsons Bay. The wards under this model are smaller and would be easier to represent than the current two-councillor wards.

8.3 Ward boundaries

The VEC's Preliminary Report stated that the ward boundaries under its preferred option were clear and recognisable, and aligned well with communities of interest. A number of response submissions argued that the proposed boundaries split several communities and lumped together disparate communities.

Several factors need to be considered in developing ward boundaries. The legislative requirement is that the numbers of voters in each ward have to be approximately equal – that is, not varying by more than 10% from the average for all wards. The likelihood of changes in the numbers of voters has to be taken into account, to maximise the period in which voter numbers will stay within the 10% tolerance. The VEC also aims to respect communities of interest and to draw boundaries that are clear and recognisable. However, it is not possible to draw boundaries which align with all communities of interest, because of the varying sizes of suburbs and localities.

In Hobsons Bay, the VEC has respected many geographic communities of interest, while also drawing clear boundaries that followed watercourses, railways and major roads. It was not possible to include the whole of Williamstown, Newport and Altona Meadows in single wards, because of the large numbers of voters in those suburbs. The Williamstown Ward comprises the older part of Williamstown. The Williamstown North Ward is based on the suburb of Williamstown North and includes surrounding areas. The Spotswood Ward is based on Spotswood and includes similar areas of Newport and South Kingsville. The Altona Ward has very clear boundaries and comprises effectively the whole of Altona and Seaholme. Seabrook and Altona Meadows Wards are divided by the clear boundary of Merton Street. Seabrook Ward is characterised by newly developed housing, while Altona Meadows Ward includes more established suburbs. Altona North Ward groups Laverton, Brooklyn and Altona North, which are demographically similar and are linked by the Princes Freeway and Melbourne-Geelong railway.

It is inevitable that boundaries divide communities of interest to some extent. The VEC considers that its proposed ward boundaries offer the best possible balance between voter numbers, communities of interest and clear boundaries.

8.4 Names of wards

In the VEC's preferred option, wards were named after the main suburb in each ward. A number of submissions suggested that wards should be named after figures who were important in the history of Hobsons Bay. However, in the absence of any consensus on historical names, the VEC considers that its proposed geographical names are satisfactory.

8.5 Recommendation

Having considered submissions and all relevant factors, the VEC recommends that the Hobsons Bay City Council consist of seven councillors to be elected from seven single-councillor wards. The VEC is confident that the City of Hobsons Bay will be well served over the next eight years by this structure, which will provide for fair and equitable representation of the City's voters.

9 Appendices

9.1 Public notices

Electoral Representation Review Hobsons Bay City Council

The Minister for Local Government has given notice under section 219C of the *Local Government Act 1989* that there is to be an electoral representation review of the Hobsons Bay City Council. The Hobsons Bay City Council has appointed the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) to conduct the review.

What is the review about?

The aim of the review is to ensure fair and equitable electoral representation for the voters of the City of Hobsons Bay. The review will consider:

- the number of councillors;
- the electoral structure of the City (whether the City should be unsubdivided or divided into wards, how many wards there should be, and the number of councillors per ward); and
- the ward boundaries (if the City is to be divided into wards).

The review process

The VEC is delivering information about the review to residents.

On Thursday, 4 March 2004, the VEC will hold an information session on the review process at:

- 7.30 pm, Council Chamber, Municipal Offices, 115 Civic Parade, Altona.

Anyone interested in making a submission should attend.

Any person or group may make a written submission to the VEC regarding electoral representation for the City of Hobsons Bay.

The deadline for submissions is 5.00 pm, 22 March 2004.

On 12 April 2004 the VEC will release a preliminary report for public comment.

After considering submissions, the VEC will make recommendations to the Minister for Local Government by 24 May 2004.

Further information 13 18 32 or visit www.vec.vic.gov.au

للحصول على معلومات باللغة العربية عن مراجعة التمثيل الانتخابي اتصلوا على الرقم 9209 0100.


Per informazioni in italiano sulla revisione della rappresentanza elettorale telefona al 9209 0104.

Għal informazzjoni bil-Malti dwar revizzjoni ta' rappreżentanza elettoral, ċempel 9209 0112.

Για πληροφορίες στα ελληνικά σχετικά με την επανεξέταση της εκλογικής εκπροσώπησης, τηλεφωνήστε στο 9209 0103.

За информации на македонски за ревизија на претставувањето на изборите, телефонирајте на 9209 0105.

Muốn biết thông tin về cuộc tái duyệt thể thức dân biểu bằng tiếng Việt, xin điện thoại số 9209 0111.

Victorian Electoral Commission 

Electoral Representation Reviews

The Minister for Local Government has given notice under section 219C of the *Local Government Act 1989* that there are to be electoral representation reviews of the following councils:

Corangamite Shire Council
Greater Bendigo City Council
Hobsons Bay City Council
Moorabool Shire Council
Moreland City Council
Pyrenees Shire Council
Stonnington City Council
Warrnambool City Council
Yarra City Council.

The councils have appointed the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) to conduct the reviews.

What are the reviews about?

The aim of the reviews is to ensure fair and equitable electoral representation for the voters of these councils. The reviews will consider:

- the number of councillors;
- the electoral structure of the councils (whether the Council should be unsubdivided or divided into wards, how many wards there should be, and the number of councillors per ward); and
- the ward boundaries (if the councils are to be divided into wards).

Do I have a say?

Consultation with the community is an important part of the reviews. The VEC welcomes input from the public. Any person or group can make a submission to the VEC. The VEC will take submissions into account in preparing its recommendations to the Minister for Local Government.

Making a submission

Submissions can be made by mail, fax or email. Submissions must reach the VEC by 5.00 pm on the following dates:


Corangamite: 8 March 2004	Pyrenees: 1 March 2004
Greater Bendigo: 1 March 2004	Stonnington: 15 March 2004
Hobsons Bay: 22 March 2004	Warrnambool: 8 March 2004
Moorabool: 1 March 2004	Yarra: 15 March 2004
Moreland: 22 March 2004	

What happens next?

After considering submissions, the VEC will release a preliminary report for each council for public comment.

After considering submissions on the preliminary reports, the VEC will make recommendations to the Minister for Local Government by 24 May 2004. The Minister will consider the VEC's recommendations and may make determinations, which would take effect at the council elections in November 2004.

**For further information or a guide to making submissions call
13 18 32 or visit www.vec.vic.gov.au**

Victorian Electoral Commission 

Electoral Representation Review

Hobsons Bay City Council

Preliminary Report

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) is conducting an electoral representation review for the Hobsons Bay City Council. Having considered submissions from the public, the VEC has now released a preliminary report including recommendations to achieve fair and equitable electoral representation for persons who are entitled to vote at the City's general election.

What are the recommendations in the report?

The City of Hobsons Bay is currently divided into four wards, with each ward represented by two councillors.

Preferred option

The report recommends that the Hobsons Bay City Council consist of seven councillors to be elected from seven single-councillor wards.

Alternative option

The report also outlines an alternative option of a Council consisting of nine councillors to be elected from three three-councillor wards.

The maps on the right show the options.

Where is the report available?

Copies of the preliminary report are available from:

- the Hobsons Bay City Council offices, 115 Civic Parade, Altona;
- the VEC's website, www.vec.vic.gov.au; and
- the VEC on 13 18 32.

Submissions on the report

Any person or group may make a submission to the VEC about the preliminary report. A submission should comment only on the preferred option and/or the alternative option. Submissions can be:

- posted to the VEC at Level 8, 505 Little Collins Street, Melbourne Vic. 3000;
- emailed to hobsonsbay.review@vec.vic.gov.au; or
- faxed to 9629 9330.

Submissions must include the name, address and telephone contact number of the person making the submission. Submissions will be available to the public at the VEC and on the VEC website.

Submissions should indicate whether the person making the submission wishes to speak at a public hearing in support of their submission.

Submissions must be received at the VEC by **5.00 pm, Monday, 3 May 2004**. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Public hearing, Monday, 10 May 2004

The hearing will be at the Council Chamber, Altona Civic Centre, 115 Civic Parade, Altona. The hearing is open to the public, but only those people who have indicated in their submission that they would like to speak in support of their submission will be heard at the hearing.

Final report, 24 May 2004

After considering any submissions on the preliminary report and information provided at the public hearing, the VEC will prepare a final report making recommendations to the Minister for Local Government.

Further information 13 18 32 or visit www.vec.vic.gov.au

للحصول على معلومات باللغة العربية عن مراجعة التمثيل الانتخابي اتصلوا على الرقم 9209 0100.

Per informazioni in italiano sulla revisione della rappresentanza elettorale telefona al 9209 0104.

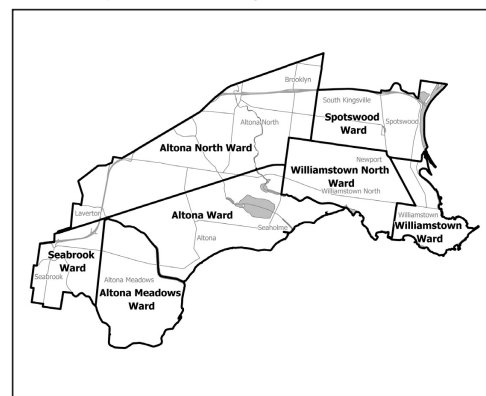
Għal informazzjoni bil-Malti dwar revizzjoni ta' rappreżentanza elettorali, ċempel 9209 0112.

Για πληροφορίες στα ελληνικά σχετικά με την επανεξέταση της εκλογικής εκπροσώπησης, τηλεφωνήστε στο 9209 0103.

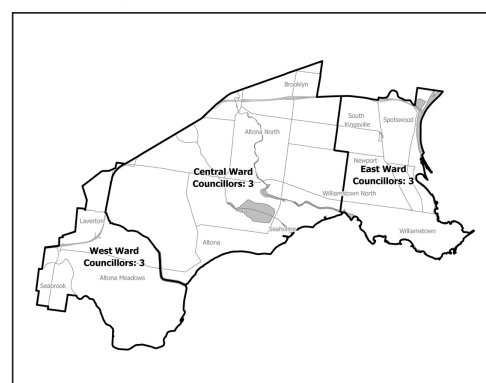
За информации на македонски за ревизија на претставувањето на изборите, телефонирајте на 9209 0105.

Muốn biết thông tin về cuộc tái duyệt thể thức dân biểu bằng tiếng Việt, xin điện thoại số 9209 0111.

Preferred option - Seven single-councillor wards



Alternative option - Three three-councillor wards



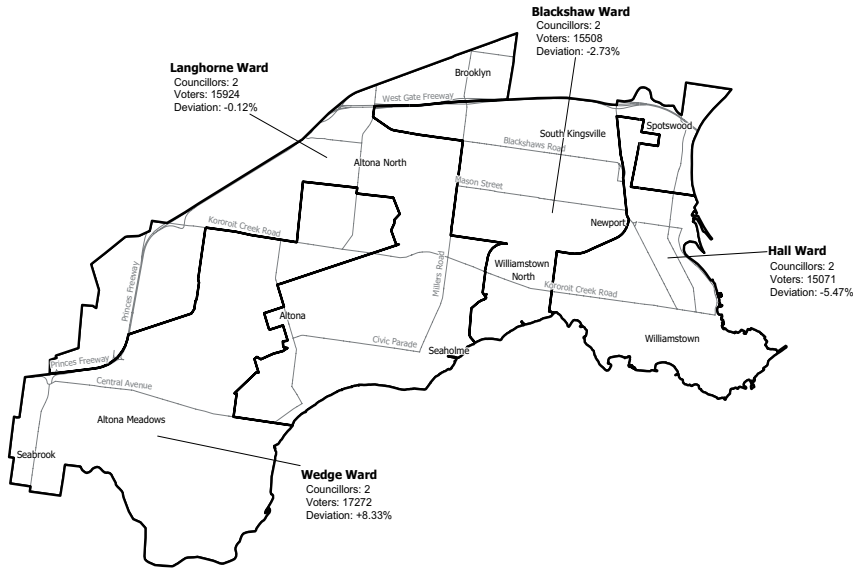
9.2 Information leaflet

Current structure of the City of Hobsons Bay

The City of Hobsons Bay currently has four wards, with two councillors representing each ward. Below is a map showing the current ward boundaries, the number of voters for each ward and the voter deviation from the average.

Need more information?

Telephone the VEC on **13 18 32**, or check our website at www.vec.vic.gov.au



Arabic
للحصول على معلومات باللغة العربية عن مراجعة التمثيل الانتخابي اتصلوا على الرقم 9209 0100.

Greek
Για πληροφορίες στα ελληνικά σχετικά με την επανεξέταση της εκλογικής εκπροσώπησης, επικοινωνήστε στο 9209 0103.

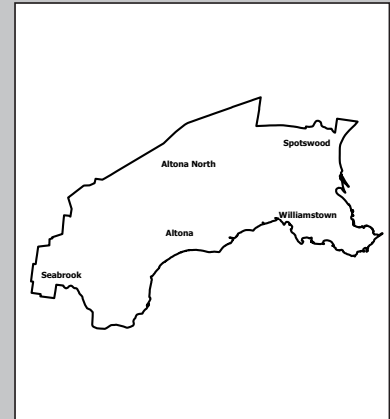
Per informazioni in italiano sulla revisione della rappresentanza elettorale telefona al 9209 0104.

За информации на македонски за ревизија на претставувањето на изборите, телефонирајте на 9209 0105.

Għal informazzjoni bil-Malti dwar revizzjoni ta' Appresenzanza elettorali, ċempel 9209 0112.

Muốn biết thông tin về cuộc tái duyệt thể thức dân biểu bằng tiếng Việt, xin điện thoại số 9209 0111.

Electoral Representation Review of the City of Hobsons Bay



Conducted by the

Victorian Electoral Commission **VEC**

Why is this review being undertaken?

The Minister for Local Government has given notice under section 219C of the *Local Government Act 1989* that there is to be an electoral representation review of the City of Hobsons Bay. The Hobsons Bay City Council has appointed the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) to conduct the review.

What is the review about?

The aim of the review is to ensure fair and equitable representation for the voters of the City of Hobsons Bay.

The review will consider:

- the number of councillors;
- the electoral structure of the City (whether the City should be unsubdivided or divided into wards, how many wards there should be, and the number of councillors per ward); and
- the boundaries of the wards (if the City is to be divided into wards).

Do I have a say?

Consultation with the Hobsons Bay community is an important part of the review. The VEC welcomes input from the public. Any person or group can make a submission to the VEC, and can also speak in support of their submission at a public hearing. The VEC will take public opinion into account in preparing its reports on the review.

What are the steps in the review?

Step 1 Information Session

Thursday, 4 March 2004

Council Chamber, Municipal Offices, 115 Civic Parade, Altona – 7.30 pm

Anyone interested in making a submission should attend.

Step 4 Submissions

Deadline:
Monday, 3 May 2004

Any person or group may make a submission to the VEC about the preliminary report.

Step 2 Preliminary Submissions

Deadline:
Monday, 22 March 2004

Any person or group may make a submission to the VEC, by mail, fax or email.

Step 5 Public Hearing, Altona

Week commencing:
Monday, 10 May 2004

People will be able to speak in support of their submissions about the preliminary report.

Step 3 Preliminary Report

Monday, 12 April 2004

After considering public submissions, the VEC will release a preliminary report containing its preferred option(s).

Step 6 Final Report

Monday, 24 May 2004

The VEC will lodge a final report making recommendations to the Minister for Local Government. The report will be publicly available.

For immediate release

REPRESENTATION REVIEW GETS UNDERWAY

The electoral representation review for the City of Hobsons Bay has begun. The review, conducted by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC), is concerned with the number of councillors for the City and the City's electoral structure.

The Victorian Electoral Commissioner, Mr Colin Barry, will speak at a public information session next week. The information session will cover the process for the reviews, and anyone interested in making a submission should attend.

The details for the information session are:

Thursday, 4 March, at 7.30 pm

Council Chamber, Municipal Offices, 115 Civic Parade, Altona

"All interested persons and organisations are welcome to participate in this review", said Mr Barry. "By making their views known through written submissions to the Victorian Electoral Commission, it will be possible for electors to help in shaping the future basis of electoral representation for their City".

Submissions do not have to be elaborate documents. A letter is perfectly acceptable, as long as it deals with the matters covered by the review.

Key dates for the Hobsons Bay representation review are:

Monday, 22 March, at 5 pm – Deadline for preliminary submissions. Submissions can be mailed, faxed or emailed to the VEC.

Monday, 12 April – The VEC's preliminary report will be made public after consideration of the preliminary submissions received.

Monday, 3 May, at 5 pm – Deadline for submissions about the preliminary report.

Week commencing Monday, 10 May – Opportunity for those persons who have made submissions on the preliminary report to speak publicly in support of their views.

Monday, 24 May – The VEC will lodge a final report with the Minister for Local Government.

Mr Barry pointed out that the deadlines for lodgement of submissions are fixed. Late submissions cannot be accepted.

"The outcomes from this reviews will have a lasting impact on the City of Hobsons Bay. The new electoral arrangements, once approved by the Minister for Local Government, will apply at the next Council elections", he said.

For additional information, telephone the VEC on 13 18 32.

– ENDS –

For further media information:

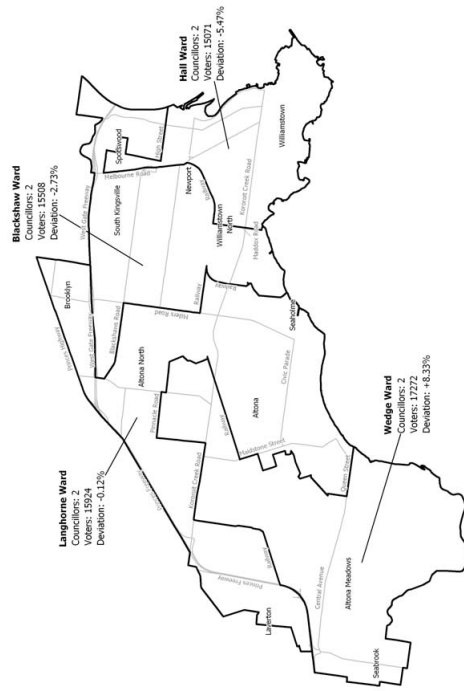
Paul Thornton-Smith
Victorian Electoral Commission
Tel: 9299 0732

9.3 Media releases

Media Release

City of Hobsons Bay

The map below shows the current ward boundaries and voter numbers for the City of Hobsons Bay.



Media Release

Victorian Electoral Commission 

For release from Tuesday 13 April 2004

HOBSONS BAY CITY COUNCIL ELECTORAL REPRESENTATION REVIEW: PRELIMINARY REPORT RELEASED

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) today released its preliminary report on electoral representation for the Hobsons Bay City Council. The VEC's preferred option is to have seven councillors elected from seven single-councillor wards. An alternative option is also presented for public comment.

The report has been released and is available on the VEC's web site at www.vec.vic.gov.au. The report is also available at the Hobsons Bay City Council, Municipal Offices, 115 Civic Parade, Altona, and at the VEC, Level 8, 505 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, Vic., 3000.

People have until 5.00 pm Monday, 3 May 2004 to lodge submissions with the VEC regarding the preliminary report.

People who wish to speak publicly in support of their submissions will have an opportunity to do so at a public hearing at the Hobsons Bay City Council, Municipal Offices, 115 Civic Parade, Altona, on Monday, 10 May 2004.

A final report and recommendations from the VEC will be lodged with the Minister on Monday, 24 May 2004.

Any person who requires additional information can visit www.vec.vic.gov.au, contact the VEC on 13 18 32, or write to the VEC at Level 8, 505 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, Vic., 3000.

– ENDS –

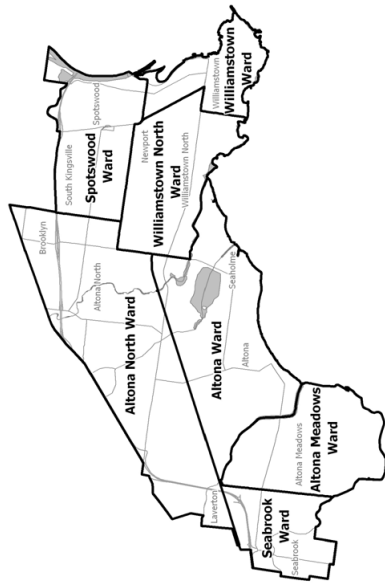
For further media information:

Paul Thornton-Smith
Victorian Electoral Commission
Tel: 9299 0732

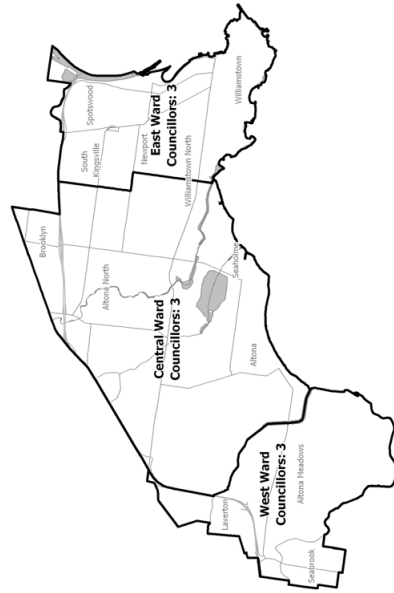
Media Fact Sheet

MAPS OF RECOMMENDED OPTIONS FOR THE STONNINGTON CITY COUNCIL

PREFERRED OPTION: SEVEN SINGLE-COUNCILLOR WARDS



ALTERNATIVE OPTION: THREE THREE-COUNCILLOR WARDS



Electoral representation review for the Hobsons Bay City Council

Guide for submissions



Conducted by the
Victorian Electoral Commission
Level 8, 505 Little Collins Street, Melbourne Vic. 3000
Telephone: 13 18 32
Fax: 9629 9330
Email: hobsonsbay.review@vec.vic.gov.au
Website: www.vec.vic.gov.au

Victorian Electoral Commission 

9.4 Guide for submissions

Why this review is being undertaken

The *Local Government Act 1989* requires regular, independent electoral representation reviews of councils. Electoral representation reviews must be conducted by an Electoral Commission, to ensure that reviews are carried out at arms length from the councils.

This system of electoral representation reviews came into effect at the end of 2003 as a result of amendments to the Local Government Act. Previously, councils reviewed their own electoral representation arrangements.

The first representation review under this system takes place at a time specified by the Minister for Local Government by a notice in the Government Gazette. Future reviews will occur before every second Council election – that is, about every eight years.

On 15 December 2003, the Minister for Local Government gave notice under section 219C of the Local Government Act that there was to be an electoral representation review of the Hobsons Bay City Council. The Hobsons Bay City Council has appointed the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) to conduct the review.

What is the review about?

The aim of the review is to ensure fair and equitable representation for the voters of the City of Hobsons Bay.

The review is considering:

- The number of councillors;
- The electoral structure of the City (whether the City should be unsubdivided or divided into wards, how many wards there should be, and how many councillors per ward); and
- The boundaries of the wards (if the City is to be divided into wards).

The review cannot deal with the external boundaries of the City, or such matters as whether the City should be divided into two separate councils or amalgamated with another council.

The review process

Notice, 24-25 February 2004

A notice detailing the process for the review and calling for submissions has been placed in the *Hobsons Bay Times*, *The Mail* and *The Star*.

Leaflet

A leaflet outlining the purpose and process of the review has been delivered to residents.

Information session, Thursday, 4 March 2004

An information session on the review process is being held at:

- 7.30 pm at the Council Chamber, Municipal Offices, 115 Civic Parade, Altona.
- Anyone with an interest in making a submission is advised to attend.

Preliminary submissions

Any person or group, including the Council, may make a preliminary submission to the VEC. Submissions should address matters relating to the number of councillors and the electoral structure for the City, so as to provide fair and equitable representation for the voters of the City.

Submissions do not have to be elaborate documents; a short letter would be perfectly acceptable as long as it addresses matters within the scope of the review.

Submissions can be sent to the VEC in the following ways:

- posted to Level 8, 505 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, Vic. 3000;
- faxed to 9629 8624; or
- emailed to hobsonsbay.review@vec.vic.gov.au.

Submissions must include the name, address and telephone contact number of the person making the submission.

Once lodged, submissions will be available to the public at:

- the VEC at Level 8, 505 Little Collins Street, Melbourne; and
- the VEC website www.vec.vic.gov.au.

Preliminary submissions must be received at the VEC by **5.00 pm, Monday, 22 March 2004. Late submissions will not be accepted.**

Preliminary report, Monday, 12 April 2004

After the VEC has considered all preliminary submissions, it will prepare a preliminary report containing the preferred option(s) for the number of councillors and the electoral structure, and, if it is proposed that the City is to continue to be divided into wards, the boundaries of those wards.

Copies of the preliminary report will be available from the VEC website, www.vec.vic.gov.au, by contacting the VEC on 13 18 32, and at the Municipal Offices, 115 Civic Parade, Altona.

When the preliminary report is released, a notice in the *Hobsons Bay Times*, *The Mail* and *The Star* will specify how people can make a written submission in response to the report.

Submissions on the preliminary report

Any person or group, including the Council, may make a submission to the VEC about the preliminary report. These submissions can be sent to the VEC in the same ways as the preliminary submissions, and will also be available to the public at the VEC and on the VEC website.

Submissions on the preliminary report should indicate whether the person making the submission wishes to speak at a public hearing in support of their submission.

Submissions on the preliminary report must be received at the VEC by **5.00 pm Monday, 3 May 2004. Late submissions will not be accepted.**

Public hearing, week commencing Monday, 10 May 2004

There will be a public hearing for people who want to speak in support of their submissions on the preliminary report.

Final report, Monday, 24 May 2004

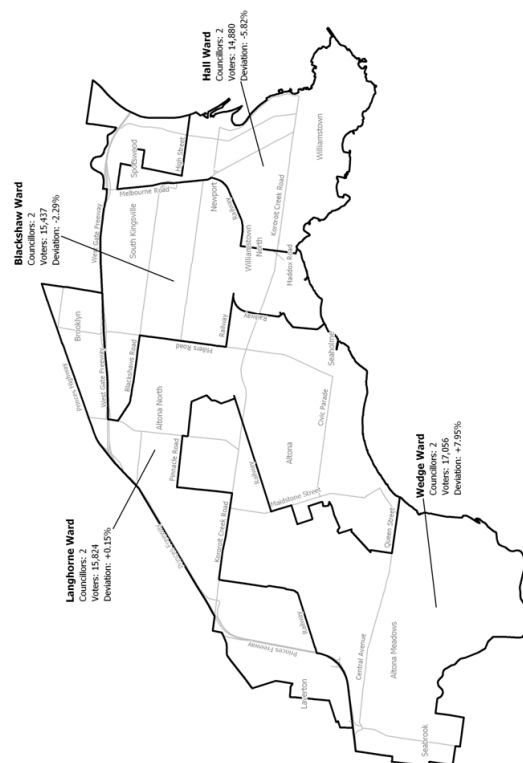
After considering any written submissions relating to the preliminary report, and information provided at the public hearing, the VEC will prepare a final report making recommendations to the Minister for Local Government. Copies of the final report will be forwarded to the Hobsons Bay City Council. The final report will be available for inspection at the Council offices and at the VEC during normal office hours and on the VEC website, www.vec.vic.gov.au.

Implementation

The Minister for Local Government will consider the VEC's recommendations and may make a determination. The determination would take effect at the next Council election.

Current structure of the City of Hobsons Bay

The City of Hobsons Bay currently has four wards, with two councillors representing each ward. The map shows the current ward boundaries, the number of voters for each ward as at 31 January 2004 and the voter deviation from the average. These voter statistics will be used as the basis for the review.



Matters to consider when preparing submissions

How many councillors should there be?

Section 10(1) of the Local Government Act requires that a Council is to consist of not fewer than 5 Councillors and not more than 12 Councillors.

A report issued by the Local Government Division in 1995, "Setting New Internal Boundaries for Councils Holding Elections in 1997" (which is still used by the Local Government and Regional Services Division), advised that in determining the number of councillors, the following factors should be considered:

- total voter numbers and their geographic distribution;
- equity of representation;
- the likely workload of councillors;
- Council business requirements, such as the allocation of portfolio responsibilities;
- the costs associated with a larger rather than a smaller number of councillors.

The table at the end of this guide puts Hobsons Bay in context. The table shows, for each council in Victoria, the geographical size of the council, the number of voters as at the most recent election, the number of councillors, the number of voters per councillor and the council's electoral structure. The table can be used for comparative purposes.

The number of councillors should enable representation for the various communities of interest across the City. Councillors should be accessible to their constituents.

Another factor to be considered is the workload of councillors. Councillor workload is affected by such matters as volume of business, diversity and complexity of issues, distances to be travelled and the number of separate communities of interest to be serviced.

The number of councillors can also affect how effectively and efficiently a council operates.

The current average annual cost of one councillor's allowance at Hobsons Bay City Council is \$15,000. This is equivalent to 0.02% of the Council's total annual operating budget.

The possible features of a small or a large number of councillors can be portrayed as follows:

	Positive Features	Less Positive Features
Small number of councillors	Council works cohesively and efficiently. Reduced cost.	Councillors are less representative and accessible. Increased workload deters people from becoming councillors.
Large number of councillors	Council is representative of communities of interest. Councillors are readily accessible. Reasonable workload for councillors. Diversity of views enriches council decision-making.	Council becomes unwieldy and divided. Increased cost.

Should the Council be divided into wards or be unsubdivided?

A council can either be unsubdivided, with all councillors elected "at large" by all the voters, or it can be subdivided into a number of wards or ridings. Of Victoria's 79 councils, 13 are unsubdivided. A local example is the City of Melbourne.

Hobsons Bay City Council is currently divided into four wards, with two councillors representing each ward.

This review will consider all possible models of representation, taking into account the submissions received during the public consultation process.

The possible features of an unsubdivided council can be portrayed as follows:

Positive Features	Less Positive Features
Promotes the concept of a City-wide focus, with councillors being elected by and concerned for the City as a whole, rather than parochial interests.	Can lead to significant communities of interest and points of view being unrepresented. Can lead to councillors being relatively inaccessible for residents of parts of the City.
Gives residents and ratepayers a choice of councillors to approach with their concerns.	Can lead to confusion of responsibilities and duplication of effort on the part of councillors.
Each voter has the opportunity to express a preference for every candidate for the Council election.	Large numbers of candidates can be confusing for voters.
Removes the need to define internal ward boundaries.	
Results in a simple, less expensive voters' roll for elections as compared with separate voters' rolls for individual wards.	

Options for division into wards

If the Council is to be divided into wards, there are three options:

- Single-member wards;
- Multi-member wards; and
- Combinations of single- and multi-member wards.

Single-member ridings

More than half (43) of Victoria's councils have single-member wards. A local example is the City of Maribyrnong, which has 7 single-member wards.

The possible features of single-member wards can be portrayed as follows:

Positive Features	Less Positive Features
Councillors are more likely to be truly local representatives, easily accessible to residents and aware of local issues. Every community of interest is likely to be represented. It is less likely that one particular point of view or sectional interest will dominate the Council.	Councillors may be elected on minor or parochial issues and lack a perspective of what is to the benefit of the City as a whole. Ward boundaries may divide communities of interest, and may be difficult to define.
	Voters may have a restricted choice of candidates in elections for individual wards. There may be problems if a councillor is not performing effectively or is clashing with some electors, as electors for that ward have no alternative councillor to approach. Small populations in each ward may make ward boundaries susceptible to change caused by demographic shifts. Population changes can lead to unequal workloads for councillors until ward boundaries are reviewed.
	Separate voters' rolls must be prepared for individual wards, which is more complex and costly than in an unsubdivided Council. Some voters may be confused if they have multiple voting entitlements through owning or occupying property in more than one ward.

Multi-member wards

Eleven of Victoria's councils, including Hobsons Bay, have multi-member wards or ridings.

A multi-member ward structure results in fewer but larger wards than a single-member ward structure.

The possible features of multi-member wards can be portrayed as follows:

Positive Features	Less Positive Features
This structure supports the accommodation of a whole community of interest (such as a sizeable town or suburb) within a ward. Focus on issues may be broader than for single-member wards (though councillors may be more locally focussed than in an unsubdivided council). Councillors may be more accessible than in an unsubdivided council. Electors have a choice of councillor to approach. Councillors can more effectively share workloads.	Very local issues may be overridden. Groups within the council based on multi-member wards may form, leading to division. In very large wards, councillors may not be accessible for residents in parts of the ward. Duplication or gaps may occur if councillors do not communicate or share their workload effectively.
Ward boundaries are likely to be easy to identify and less susceptible to change than for single-member wards.	It is easier for candidates to be elected as part of a voting ticket than as individuals.

Combination of single- and multi-member wards

Twelve of Victoria's councils have a mixture of single- and multi-member wards or ridings. An example is the City of Yarra, which has four two-member wards and one single-member ward.

The possible features of a combined system can be portrayed as follows:

Positive Features	Less Positive Features
A large community of interest can be included within a multi-member ward, and a smaller community of interest can be included within a single-member ward. This accommodates differences in population across a council, and allows small communities to be separately represented. Clear ward boundaries may be more likely.	Electors in single-member wards may expect that their councillors will be more influential than their numbers suggest.
	The different voting systems for single- and multi-member wards may cause confusion.

Voting systems

The voting system is an important factor affecting election outcomes.

In single-member wards the voting system is **preferential**.

Under the preferential system:

- a candidate must achieve an absolute majority (50% plus one) of the formal votes to be elected;
- if a candidate obtains an absolute majority of the first-preference votes, that candidate is elected;
- if no candidate obtains an absolute majority of first-preference votes, preferences have to be distributed;
- the candidate with the lowest number of first-preference votes is declared to be a defeated candidate, and that candidate's votes are distributed to the remaining candidates according to the second preferences on the ballot papers;
- the process of excluding the lowest candidate and distributing that candidate's preferences to the remaining candidates continues until one candidate has an absolute majority of votes, and is declared elected.

Under this system, the way in which voters allocate their preferences can be just as important as where they place their first-preference votes. Candidates advise voters (through how-to-vote cards and candidate statements) about how to order their preferences, and negotiate with other candidates about the order of preferences. In some cases, candidates have had informal "running mates" to help with the flow of preferences to them.

In unsubdivided councils and multi-member wards the voting system is **proportional representation**, following legislative change at the end of 2003. The basis of proportional representation is that candidates are elected in proportion to their support.

Under the proportional representation system:

- to be elected, a candidate must obtain a "quota", which is calculated by dividing the total number of votes by one more than the number of vacancies, and then adding one (for example, in an election for 3 vacancies with 800 votes cast, the quota would be 201);
- when a candidate receives more votes than a quota, the surplus votes are distributed to the continuing candidates at a reduced value, calculated by dividing the surplus votes by the total votes for the candidate. (For example, if a candidate achieved 300 votes and the quota was 201 votes, the candidate's surplus would be 99, and ballot papers would be transferred to the remaining candidates at a value 99 divided by 300.);
- when all surplus votes have been distributed and there are still vacancies to be filled, preferences are distributed from the lowest-scoring candidates until a candidate has a quota.

This system means that any candidate who obtains a quota, either through first-preference votes or through the flow of preferences, is elected. In effect, candidates representing all large minorities are likely to be represented as well as candidates representing majorities.

In practice, this system encourages candidates to group together and advise their supporters to follow a ticket in their preferences. However, such a group is unlikely to win all the vacancies in a ward or unsubdivided council unless it has overwhelming support.

How should ward boundaries be drawn?

If the City of Hobsons Bay is to remain divided into wards, the ward boundaries must comply with legal requirements. Section 219D of the *Local Government Act 1989* requires that:

- the number of voters represented by each Councillor must be within 10% of the average number of voters represented by all Councillors; and
- the ward boundaries must provide a fair and equitable division of the municipal district.

Where there are multi-member wards, the number of voters represented by each councillor for such wards is taken to be the total number of voters for the ward divided by the number of councillors for the ward. For instance, there are 2 councillors and 14,880 voters for Hall Ward in Hobsons Bay. The number of voters represented by each councillor for Hall Ward is 14,880 divided by 2, which equals 7,440.

Ward boundaries **must** meet the approximate equality requirement set by the Local Government Act. The number of voters represented by each councillor cannot be more than 10% outside the average number for all councillors. In Hobsons Bay at present no ward is outside the 10% tolerance, though Wedge Ward is fairly close to the limit.

The Local Government Act does not prescribe any more details to define what constitutes a fair and equitable division of the Council. However, the following criteria are useful in considering and then deciding on proposed ward boundaries:

- the boundaries should take account of communities of interest;
- the boundaries should follow clear lines, such as major roads, rivers and other natural features;
- as far as possible, the boundaries should follow census collector district (CCD) boundaries. This will assist in providing the Council with demographic information, and will also facilitate voters' roll administration; and
- the boundaries should take account of likely population changes, by setting the number of voters in wards with high growth potential somewhat below the average, and the number of voters in wards within little growth potential somewhat above the average. The approach will help ensure that the boundaries stay within the 10% tolerance for a longer period, avoiding the need for frequent redrawing of boundaries.

What should wards be called?

There is a variety of possible approaches to the naming of wards, including:

- **Place names:** A number of councils name their wards after localities in the wards. This approach is useful where ward boundaries closely align with localities. However, it can lead to smaller localities within a ward feeling overlooked, and may cause confusion if the locality that a ward is named after cuts across a ward boundary;
- **Compass directions:** This is the current approach in the City of Whittlesea, where the wards are Central, East, East Central, North, North Central, South, South Central, South West and West. It is straightforward. It is of most use where the location of the wards is closely aligned to compass directions;
- **Names of historic buildings:** This is a way of celebrating the City's heritage;
- **Names of natural features:** Using the names of natural features such as hills or streams can be a way of identifying wards without the complications of locality names. The features would need to be well known and relevant to the particular wards;
- **Names of pioneers and former prominent citizens:** This is a way of recognising important former residents. It is most appropriate when the person is closely associated with the area covered by the ward;
- **Aboriginal names:** This is a way of recognising the City's Aboriginal heritage. However, the use of Aboriginal names could be seen as being tokenistic if the names are not relevant to areas within the City.

TABLE: PROFILES OF MUNICIPAL COUNCILS - 2004

Metropolitan (including outer metropolitan)					
Council	Area (km ²)	Number on roll	Number of councillors	Number of voters per councillor	Electoral structure
Banyule	63	91,639	7	13091	Single member wards
Bayside	37	68,043	9	7560	Single member wards
Boroondara	60	124,245	10	12425	Single member wards
Brimbank	123	119,791	9	13310	Single member wards
Casey	389	130,368	11	11852	Single member wards
Darebin	53	100,680	9	11187	Single member wards
Frankston	130	90,611	7	12944	Single member wards
Glen Eira	39	96,259	9	10695	3 three member wards
Greater Dandenong	130	94,605	11	8600	Single member wards
Hobsons Bay	64	63,775	8	7972	4 two member wards
Hume	503	97,985	9	10887	Single member wards
Kingston	91	105,796	7	15114	Single member wards
Knox	118	110,006	9	12223	Single member wards
Manningham	113	86,847	8	10856	4 two member wards
Maribyrnong	31	48,844	7	6978	Single member wards
Maroondah	61	77,585	7	11084	Single member wards
Melbourne	37	64,000	9	7111	Unsubdivided
Melton	528	37,818	7	5403	Single member wards
Monash	81	122,865	8	15358	Single member wards
Moonee Valley	44	92,217	7	13174	Single member wards
Moreland	31	98,732	10	9873	Single member wards
Mornington Peninsula	721	136,358	9	15151	Single member wards
Nilumbik	430	43,736	9	4860	Single member wards
Port Phillip	20	73,812	7	10545	Single member wards
Stonnington	26	78,148	9	8683	Single member wards
Whitehorse	64	112,858	10	11286	5 two member wards
Whittlesea	490	84,676	9	9408	Single member wards
Wyndham	540	67,813	7	9688	Single member wards
Yarra	20	59,589	9	6621	1 single member ward, 4 two member wards
Yarra Ranges	2,464	105,900	9	11767	Single member wards
Average (median)	73	91,928	9	10872	

Regional Cities, Rural Cities and Boroughs					
Council	Area (km ²)	Number on roll	Number of councillors	Number of voters per councillor	Electoral structure
Ararat	3,701	9,586	7	1369	Unsubdivided
Ballarat	739	66,468	9	7385	Single member wards
Benalla	2,354	11,785	7	1684	Single member wards
Greater Bendigo	2,995	77,069	7	11010	Single member wards
Greater Geelong	1,275	155,034	12	12920	Single member wards
Greater Shepparton	2,420	39,740	7	5677	Unsubdivided
Horsham	4,253	14,614	7	2088	Unsubdivided
Latrobe	1,405	58,131	9	6459	Single member wards
Mildura	22,092	36,333	9	4037	Unsubdivided
Queenscliff	11	4,131	7	590	Unsubdivided
Swan Hill	6,106	14,586	7	2084	1 single member ward, 3 two member wards
Wangaratta	3,628	21,525	8	2691	6 single member wards, 1 two member ward
Warrambool	121	23,777	7	3397	Single member wards
Wodonga	434	23,373	5	4675	Unsubdivided
Average (median)	2,387	23,575	7	3717	

Regional Shires						
Council	Area (km ²)	Number on roll	Number of councillors	Number of voters per councillor	Electoral structure	
Alpine	4,837	11,074	5	2215	Unsubdivided	
Bass Coast	865	37,113	7	5302	Single member wards	
Baw Baw	4,030	30,399	9	3378	Single member wards	
Buloke	8,006	6,804	9	756	3 three member wards	
Campaspe	4,519	30,525	7	4361	5 single member wards, 1 two member ward	
Cardinia	1,282	36,473	7	5210	Single member wards	
Central Goldfields	1,532	11,415	5	2283	Single member wards	
Colac Otway	3,449	20,433	7	2919	2 single member wards, 1 two member ward, 1 three member ward	
Corangamite	4,356	13,962	10	1396	5 two member wards	
East Gippsland	20,942	36,769	8	4596	2 four member wards	
Gannawarra	3,736	9,949	7	1421	3 single member wards, 2 two member wards	
Glenelg	6,212	18,506	9	2056	Single member wards	
Golden Plains	2,705	13,192	9	1466	Single member ridings	
Hepburn	1,470	13,783	5	2757	Single member wards	
Hindmarsh	7,520	5,430	6	905	3 two member wards	
Indigo	2,046	11,457	7	1637	Unsubdivided	
Loddon	6,694	8,570	6	1428	Single member ridings	
Macedon Ranges	1,743	30,189	9	3354	Single member wards	
Mansfield	3,887	9,141	5	1828	4 single member wards, 1 two member ward	
Mitchell	2,864	21,955	7	3136	5 single member wards, 1 two member ward	
Moira	4,057	20,599	9	2289	3 three member wards	
Moorabool	2,110	20,328	7	2904	4 single member ridings, 1 three member riding	
Mount Alexander	1,528	15,377	7	2197	Single member wards	
Moyn	5,853	13,883	10	1388	5 two member ridings	
Murrindindi	3,987	13,725	6	2288	Single member ridings	
Northern Grampians	5,903	11,080	9	1231	1 three member ward, 1 six member ward	
Pyrenees	3,432	7,211	7	1030	Single member ridings	
South Gippsland	3,297	28,548	9	3172	7 single member wards, 1 two member ward	
Southern Grampians	6,800	13,195	7	1885	Unsubdivided	
Strathbogie	3,304	9,080	7	1297	Single member wards	

Council	Area (km ²)	Number on roll	Number of councillors	Number of voters per councillor	Electoral structure
Surf Coast	1,560	21,943	9	2438	3 single member wards, 2 three member wards
Towong	6,670	5,264	5	1053	Unsubdivided
Wellington	11,007	37,709	9	4190	Unsubdivided
West Wimmera	9,116	4,322	5	864	Unsubdivided
Yarriambiack	7,163	7,251	9	806	3 single member wards, 2 three member wards
Average (median)	3,987	13,783	7	2197	

9.5 List of persons and organisations making submissions

(Full details of submissions are available on the VEC web site www.vec.vic.gov.au)

Preliminary submissions

G Atkins	Barbara Johnstone
Altona Branch Australian Labor Party	Michael Johnstone
J Ballestrino	Allan King
Maree Ballestrino	Nevil and Gloria Knell
Stephen Ballestrino	G Knight
Blanalko Pty Ltd	Laverton Community Centre
Tony Briffa	Leo Ledwich
Dianne Calistro	Elizabeth Lee
Joyce Camilleri	Katerina Lee
Josie Caruana	Cameron McCurley
Lisa Chapin	John MacGlashan
Elio Comello	Therese McKenney-Campbell
Sandra Cook	Jim Magro
Anthony van der Craats	J Majewski
Derek and Joan Craggs	Martin Mankowski
Ken Daley	Anthea Matheson
Robert Dibdin	Brad Matheson
Danny Duane	Barry and Jenni Mitchell
Noel Dyson	Geoff Mitchelmore
K Edgar	Olga Mitchelmore
Charles Fiorini	Shereen Moneeb
Mirella Giles	Natasha Moyle
Anne Goodwin	Susan Mravlek
Paul Grech	Judith Mugliett
Luba Grigorovitch	Graeme Murdoch
Robin Grove	Tracey Norris
Eveline Hallowell	Dorothy Page
John Hallowell	Anne Palmer
Leigh Hardinge	Colin Palmer
Matthew Hardinge	Moya Palmer
Merridee Hardinge	Timothy Pelns
Nessie Hardy	P Pitcher
Peter Hemphill	John Power and Ann Morrow
Hobsons Bay City Council	Proportional Representation Society of Australia Victoria-Tasmania Branch
Hobsons Bay Community First	Grace Rankin
Kaylene Holloway	John Rivett
Janet Howie	Dale Robinson
Mal Ivory	

Emely Rowe
Andrew Rozwadowski
Patricia Rozwadowski
Luda Ruby
Karl Santillo
Louise Santillo
Pauline Santillo
Janice Schmidt
Neil Shephard
Peter Shephard
Barbara Sosnowski
Michael Sosnowski
Paul Sosnowski

Response submissions

Kelly Ainslie
Alexander Aitken
Chayden Allen
Kade Allen
Noel Allsop
Angela Altair
Altona Branch Australian Labor Party
Yvonne Andrews
Catherine Aquilina
Michael Aquilina
Roy Armstrong
Sylvia Armstrong
Sharon Askew
Wajde Assaf
Joseph Attard
Australian Flower Export Council
Kiran Bajaj
John Ballestrino
Maree Ballestrino
Stephen Ballestrino
Carmen Barbara
Lisa Barbara
Rebecca Barbara
Charles Bates
Stella Batzogiannis
Toreq Bayeh
John Beckman

Keith Stephens
Kelley Stewart
Nikola Stijepic
Lorraine Stupak
A Sulkowski
Peter Undy
Maggie Vasic
Lesley Vinycomb
A Walsh
Carol Weir
David Williams
Vivianne Woska

James Bird
John Bird
Sandra Bird
J & G Blackstock
Shirley Blyth
Anne Briffa
Gail Briffa
John Briffa
Luke Briffa
Mary-Grace Briffa
Matthew Briffa
Tony Briffa
Margaret Broeks
Justin Brown
Jennifer Burchill
D Burt
K Burt
A H Bury
N Bury
R Bury
W Bury
Dianne Calistro
Joyce Camilleri
Josie Caruana
Renee Caruana
David Ceufs
Natalie Christodoulou
Steven Clement

Vida Clement	Arthur Halnon
Jason Colgan	Haydn Haman
Phillip Collins	V F Hannemann
Elio Comello	Leigh Hardinge
Bruce Cook	Matthew Hardinge
Faye Cook	Merridee Hardinge
Kerry Cook	Nessie Hardy
Sandra Cook	Peter Hemphill
Anthony van der Craats	Caroline Hewson
C J Curtis	J A M Hill
Mario Cutajar	Hobsons Bay Community First
Amanda Cutaya	Hobsons Bay-Wyndham Greens
Geoff Cutter	Mildred Horne
Ken Daley	Leanne Matheson Hunt
Lindsay Davies	Chantal Hunter
John & Heather Dawson	Ray Hunter
Robert Dibdin	Tim Hunter
Bill Dimopoulos	Trevor Hutchinson
Matthew Dunlop	Melissa Jeffrey
Noel Dyson	Vicky Jeffrey
Kenneth Edgar	Heather Jobling
Ralph Empey	Michael Jobling
Joshua Everest	Russell Johnson
Lori Faraone	Barbara Johnstone
Grace Fava	Michael Johnstone
John Fava	William Johnstone
Giuseppa Ferlauto	Frederick Jones
Charles Fiorini	Barry Keenan
Mary Anne Fiorini	Jenny Keillor
Gail Ford	Kelly Kellei
Narelle Fowler	Douglas King
Tracey Franklin	G Knight
J Garrick	Jovan Kravlevski
D L Goodall	Maryana Lasic
Kenyon Goslin	Angelo Laudato
Hugh Graham	H Lauder
Valda Graham	Jack Lauder
D K Grant	Laverton Community Centre & Neighbourhood House Inc.
L F Grant	Laverton Retail Traders Association
John Philip Cameron Gray	Beverley Ledwich
Betty Hall	Leo Ledwich
John Hallowell	

Timothy Ledwich
Elizabeth Lee
Katerina Lee
John Lesille
Shirley Lili
Mary Ann Lindsay
Peter Livingstone
Cameron McCurley
Graeme Macdonald
Lina McDougall
Andrea MacGlashan
Ann Patricia MacGlashan
John MacGlashan
Jason McHale
Jackie McIlvaney
John McKinney
Robert McNish
Dennis Mahon
Petronella Mallia
Gerry Maloney
J Maloney
T Maloney
Carl Marsich
Kim Martin
Angelo Mastrangelo
Anthea Matheson
Brad Matheson
Clive Matheson
Joan Matheson
Kyle Matheson
Madeleine Matheson
Olivia Matheson
Brenda Matthews
David Matthews
Evangelo Meletis
Sam Merki
Marlene Merrett
Anna Michaels
Jana Michaels
K & R Mispelkamp
Barry and Jenni Mitchell
Geoff & Olga Mitchelmore

Joseph Mizzi
Mary Mizzi
Mitre Momokovski
Con Moraitis
Karolyne Moraitis
Eunice Morgan
Joseph Mugliett
John Mugliett
John M Mugliett
Judith Mugliett
Anne Mulholland
James Mulholland
Gerda Mullins
Ian Mullins
Graeme Murdoch
Peter Murphy
Jason Murray
Alan Naj
Anne Natoli
Peter Newall
Quy Nguyen
Annette Nicholson
J Nicholson
Tamara Nicholson
Frances Nikora
John Nuhanovic
Jeff Oakley
E O'Hara
Marlene O'Leary
Hans Paas
Michael Paas
Pamela Paikea
Paisley Estate Resident Action Group
Anne Palmer
Colin Palmer
Alan Paproth
Roy Patton
Faye Pelns
Timothy Pelns
Bruno Perrusio
Kim Pham
Mary Phin

Neil Pitts	Michael Tamihana
Alice Prest	John Tao
John Price	Ngeo Thao
William Pride	Ian Thomas
Gordon & Frances Privitera	Joan Thomas
Shirley Quang	Simon Thomas
Shane Rennie	Vicki Thomas
Maria Riabczenko	Paora Thompson
Tony Riabczenko	Raihania Thompson
Kay Richards	David Tidball
Aaron Rivett	Kevin Tidball
Debbie Rivett	Carlisle Tribe
Gaye Rivett	Helen Tribe
John Rivett	Ian Tribe
Judy Rivett	Simon Tribe
Nellie Rivett	Travis Truter
Rebekkah Rivett	John Tungyep
Wilma Robarts	Rodney & Barbara Walker
Ian Robertson	J E Wallace
Wendy Robertson	Robyn Walter
Craig Rowley	Roger Walter
Andrew Rozwadowski	Jason Way
Patricia Rozwadowski	Lisa Way
Luda Ruby	Michelle Webb
George Said	Wayne Webster
Ciro Santarsiere	Carol Weir
Josefina Santarsiere	Westgate Region Migrant Resource Centre
Karl Santillo	David Williams
Louise Santillo	Cr David Williams
Pauline Santillo	Williamstown Branch Australian Labor Party
Zofia Sawka	Raymond Willis
Janice Schmidt	Annette Wilson
Jane Smith	Sandra Wiseman
Jim Smith	Rhonda Woods
Barbara Sosnowski	Margaret Wright
Michael Sosnowski	Jean Wyllie
Paul Sosnowski	Robert Wyllie
South Kingsville Community Centre	Tony Zadel
Doug Stephenson	
Kelley Stewart	
Martene Strahan	
Stephen Summers	

