

FINAL REPORT
Electoral Representation Review
Moreland City Council

A large, light grey watermark of the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) logo is positioned in the lower half of the page. The logo consists of the letters 'VEC' in a bold, sans-serif font, with a stylized 'V' that has a thick vertical bar on its left side. The letters are white and set against a light grey background that forms a large, rounded shape.

24 May 2004

Table of Contents

1	Recommendation	2
2	Background	2
2.1	Legislative basis.....	2
2.2	The VEC and electoral representation reviews.....	2
2.3	Municipality profile.....	3
2.4	Current electoral structure	3
3	Electoral representation review process	3
3.1	Public consultation.....	3
3.2	Advertising.....	4
3.3	Information leaflet.....	4
3.4	Media releases	4
3.5	VEC website	4
3.6	VEC support for public enquiries regarding the review	4
4	Consideration of the number of councillors	5
5	Preliminary Report	6
5.1	Preliminary submissions	6
5.2	Other relevant factors	6
5.3	Recommended options	6
6	Response submissions	7
7	Public hearing	7
8	Findings and recommendations	7
8.1	Number of councillors	8
8.2	Electoral structure	10
9	Appendices	13
9.1	Public notices of electoral representation review.....	13
9.2	Media releases	17
9.3	Information leaflet.....	19
9.4	Guide for submissions	20
9.5	List of persons and organisations making submissions	28

1 Recommendation

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) is required under the legislation for the electoral representation review to make a recommendation to the Minister for Local Government as to the number of councillors and the electoral structure that provide fair and equitable representation for the voters of the City of Moreland (s.219D *Local Government Act 1989*).

The VEC recommends that the City of Moreland consist of eleven councillors to be elected from three wards, comprising two four-councillor wards and one three-councillor ward.

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 Moreland City Council received notice pursuant to s.219C of the Act from the Minister for Local Government that an electoral representation review was to be conducted for the City of Moreland. 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 16 January 2004 the Moreland City Council appointed the VEC to conduct the 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 electoral 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 existing City of Moreland was created through two amalgamations. The first occurred on 22 June 1994 between the former City of Brunswick and the former City of Coburg less the West Preston and Reservoir districts. Then on 15 December 2004, the City of Moreland was expanded to include residents from the southern area of the former City of Broadmeadows.

Encompassing an area of 51 square kilometres, the City is one of the State's smaller metropolitan councils and is, in terms of size, well below the State average (76 square kilometres) for such councils. In terms of voter numbers, however, the municipality is above the State average (of 91,928) with 108,092 enrolled voters.

The population in the City of Moreland is growing slowly, it is ageing and it is highly culturally and linguistically diverse. Compared with State metropolitan averages, the City has a slightly lower proportion of 5-14 year olds and a significantly higher proportion of 65+ year olds. Just over a third (33.5%) of residents were born overseas and just over half (53%) speak English at home. (Sources: Australian Bureau of Statistics; Moreland City Council: *Moreland in Profile 2003*).

2.4 Current electoral structure

At present, the City of Moreland has ten wards with one councillor representing each ward.

3 Electoral representation review process

3.1 Public consultation

The VEC developed a community consultation framework for the electoral representation review that focussed on:

- creating an awareness of the review process through an advertising and public relations strategy;
- distributing a community information leaflet for voters in the City of Moreland;
- conducting an information session to outline the review process and to respond to questions from members of the community;
- communicating with the City of Moreland community through the use of media releases and the VEC website;

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- ensuring the review process remained transparent by publishing all preliminary submissions and making them available to the public;
 - releasing a Preliminary Report on 13 April 2004 and making the Report available at the Council offices, at the VEC and on the VEC website;
 - conducting a public hearing at the Moreland Civic Centre on 11 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 decided 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 review (in accordance with s.219F(4) of the Act), which detailed the process for the review and called for public submissions, appearing in the *Moreland Leader* on 23 February 2004 and in the *Hume Moreland Leader* on 25 February 2004;
- A general advertisement covering several electoral representation reviews and including the Moreland City Council review, appearing in the *Herald Sun* on 13 February 2004;
- A notice of the Preliminary Report, appearing in the *Moreland Leader* on 12 April 2004 and in the *Hume Moreland Leader* on 14 April 2004; and
- A notice of the public hearing, appearing in the *Moreland Leader* on 3 May 2004 and in the *Hume Moreland Leader* on 4 May 2004.

See Appendix 9.1.

3.3 Information leaflet

The VEC delivered an information leaflet about the review to all households within the City of Moreland from 24 February 2004. See Appendix 9.2.

3.4 Media releases

Media releases designed to supplement the paid advertising were distributed to the *Moreland Leader*, the *Hume Moreland Leader*, the *Community News* and to the *Melbourne Times* on 25 February 2004 and 13 April 2004. See Appendix 9.2.

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 persons and organisations wanting to make a submission. A copy of the guide is attached. See Appendix 9.3.

4 Consideration of the number of councillors

The electoral representation review provisions of the Act 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 five councillors and not more than 12 councillors (s.5B(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 be taken into account when considering the number of councillors.

Parliament has provided for a range of councillors from five 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 that have a smaller numbers of voters. The size of councils 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 was 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. The result was a degree of disparity in councillor numbers for similar types of councils. The VEC has produced a table that lists each council 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. The information has enabled the VEC to compare a council being reviewed with councils with similar voter numbers and size.

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 its 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 arguments and local knowledge and 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 s.219F(6) of the Act, the VEC produced a Preliminary Report containing the VEC's proposed options for the City of Moreland. In developing these proposed options, the VEC considered preliminary submissions made by various individuals and organisations, as well as various other relevant factors.

5.1 Preliminary submissions

By the close of submissions at 5.00 pm on 22 March 2004, the VEC had received 49 preliminary submissions.

Among the submissions, opinion regarding the number of councillors varied. Support ranged from a total of nine to 15 councillors (under the Act, the number of councillors must be between five and 12). Opinion regarding the electoral structure and voting system options also varied. Some submissions favoured the municipality remaining subdivided into wards, with either single or multiple councillor representation for each ward. Other submissions preferred an unsubdivided municipality and a system of voting by proportional representation.

See Appendix 9.4 for details of those 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 formulating its recommendations for the Preliminary Report, the VEC took into account such other relevant factors as:

- The requirements of the Act regarding the number of councillors permitted;
- Fairness and equity of representation;
- The total number of voters and their geographical 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;
- Communities of interest within the municipality; 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 made by various individuals and organisations and all other relevant factors, the VEC proposed two options for public comment.

The VEC's preferred option was:

- **That the City of Moreland consist of eleven councillors to be elected from three wards, comprising two four-councillor wards and one three-councillor ward.**

The VEC's alternative option was:

- That the City of Moreland consist of ten councillors to be elected from ten single-councillor wards.

Detailed maps of these two options, showing recommended ward boundaries, were included in the Preliminary Report.

6 Response submissions

In accordance with s.219F(7) of the Act, the VEC invited written submissions in response to the Preliminary Report. The VEC required that these submissions be limited to commenting on the two proposals set forward in the Preliminary Report.

By the close of submissions at 5.00 pm on 3 May 2004, the VEC had received 85 response submissions.

Among the response submissions, support for maintaining the current number of councillors was widespread. Just over half of the submissions (44) supported the VEC's alternative recommendation which was to retain the current 10 councillors within a single-ward structure. In contrast, 29 submissions favoured the VEC's preferred option of introducing a multi-ward structure with three wards, comprising two four-councillor wards and one three-councillor ward. Ten submissions supported a 12 councillor option but since this option was not recommended in the Preliminary Report, it was considered to be outside the scope of the final stage of the review and so could not be considered. Of the 73 submissions which favoured either of the two proposed options, 16 noted that while they supported the electoral structure of their chosen option, they would prefer 12 councillors. Two submissions did not support either option and provided detailed discussion of various alternative electoral structures.

See Appendix 9.4 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 at the Moreland Civic Centre on Tuesday, 11 May 2004. All persons who had made submissions in response to the VEC's Preliminary Report were invited to speak to their submissions and 15 individuals chose to do so. Members of the public were invited to attend and 17 people, including those speaking at the hearing, were present.

8 Findings and recommendations

In formulating the most appropriate recommendation for the City of Moreland, the VEC has been concerned to provide fair and equitable electoral representation for the persons who are entitled to vote at a general election of the Council. The VEC has also been conscious of the need to generate a forward thinking model that will serve the City through the next eight years. In coming to its recommendation, the VEC has been guided by several crucial issues but consideration has not been dominated by any single factor.

8.1 Number of councillors

According to the legislation, the VEC is required to make a recommendation to the Minister as to an appropriate number of councillors for the City of Moreland. In considering an appropriate number of councillors, the VEC has been conscious of the approach outlined in Section 4 of this report, and so, has maintained an awareness of the numbers of councillors in other, similarly sized metropolitan municipalities, and of the voter/councillor ratios in those municipalities.

The City of Moreland contains 108,092 voters and each of its ten councillors represents an average of 10,809 voters. This voter/councillor ratio is currently right on the State average for metropolitan municipalities (91,928 voters in each municipality and each councillor representing 10,872 voters). If the number of councillors was increased to 11, this ratio would drop below the State average to 9,827 voters per councillor. However, the VEC considers that the City displays certain characteristics which justify an increase in the number of councillors.

The City of Moreland is a municipality which is experiencing some growth. At the time of the 1991 Census, the City contained 133,207 residents. That figure had dropped to 130,093 by 1996 but by 2003 it had risen again to 135,762. According to the Department of Infrastructure population projection estimates, the City's total population is expected to rise to 146,911 residents by 2021. Most of this increase is expected to occur between 2001 and 2006.

The City of Moreland contains a large community of older residents who have special needs and who require significant attention through access to municipal services. Compared with metropolitan averages, the City has a slightly lower proportion of 5-14 year olds and 45-64 year olds but its proportion of 25-44 year olds and its proportion of residents over the age of 65 are significantly higher.

The City of Moreland also contains linguistically and culturally diverse communities which display special needs. Of the total City population, 30% were born in non English-speaking countries and less than half the residents over the age of 45 were born in Australia. Proficiency in English is lower in the City than in other metropolitan areas, particularly among older residents. Just over half the population (53%) speak English at home (compared with the metropolitan average of 70%). Among males 65 years old or over, 73% speak English only or very well (compared with the State metropolitan average of 83%) and among women in that same age bracket, 69% speak to the same standard (compared with the metropolitan average of 81%).

The diversity within the City of Moreland community places strenuous demands on the Council and on councillors to an extent that may not be experienced by councils and councillors representing more homogeneous communities. For example, councillors within the City regularly face questions of translation and interpretation. They respond to such issues as the impact of religion on sport and recreation and they provide support services relating to such areas as health, housing and employment to newly arrived immigrants and refugees.

The VEC considers that the City of Moreland's current and projected growth and its ageing and culturally diverse population combine to produce an environment in which an increase in the number of councillors is well justified. Several submissions suggested increasing the number of councillors to 12. If such an increase was implemented, each councillor would represent an average of 9,008 voters,

considerably less than the State average for metropolitan councils. While the VEC considers that the City would be well served by an increase in councillors, it does not consider that an increase to 12 councillors is warranted. Further, the VEC is of the view that an uneven number of councillors benefits a council by preventing potential council deadlocks and so removing the need to confer on the Mayor the task of making important casting votes. The VEC recommends 11 as an appropriate number of councillors for the City of Moreland.

See table below for councillor number comparisons.

Metropolitan (including outer metropolitan)					
Council	Area (km²)	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	51	108,092	10	10,809	Single member wards
Mornington Peninsula	721	136,358	9	15151	Single member wards
Nillumbik	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)	76	91,928	9	10872	

8.2 Electoral structure

According to the legislation, the VEC is required to make a recommendation to the Minister as to an appropriate electoral structure for the City of Moreland. Having decided that 11 would be an appropriate number of councillors, the VEC was concerned to recommend a structure which would accommodate this number of councillors.

Communities of interest

In formulating its recommendation as to the most appropriate electoral structure, the VEC has been conscious of the existing communities of interest in the municipality and of the need to maximise opportunities for their representation. Currently, the City of Moreland is divided into ten wards. The boundaries of these wards have kept voter numbers for each ward within legislative limits but these boundaries have divided the City artificially and have split significant communities of interest within the municipality. For example, in the southern end of the City, Brunswick has been divided between three wards, and, further north, both the Coburg area and the Pascoe Vale region have been split.

Under the proposed three-ward structure, wards would be larger and so would be able to reflect broader geographic communities of interest. The proposed South Ward, for example, would incorporate the localities of Brunswick, Brunswick West and Brunswick East. The North-East Ward would be structured around the communities of interest along the Sydney Road corridor and would incorporate the suburbs of Coburg, Coburg North and Fawkner. The North-West Ward would group together the communities of interest along the Pascoe Vale Road corridor and would include the localities of Pascoe Vale, Pascoe Vale South, Oak Park, Glenroy and Gowanbrae.

During the modelling process of the three multi-councillor ward option, the VEC considered the alternative of splitting the City of Moreland into north, central and south wards. Although this worked well in the south of the municipality, it was felt that communities of interest in the centre and the north were better reflected in the model presented.

Growth

In developing its recommendation as to the most appropriate electoral structure, the VEC has also considered the City's potential for growth.

The City of Moreland has experienced some growth in recent years. Between 1991 and 2003, the total population rose from 133,207 to 135,762. The City's growth rate is expected to increase further, with the total population predicted to climb to 146,911 by 2021.

Information originally available to the VEC indicated that growth in the Brunswick area during the next eight years would not be significant. The VEC made allowances for this in the creation of its three-ward proposed structure, by setting the South Ward's deviation on the positive side. Since publishing its Preliminary Report, the VEC has received more recent information in the form of the *Dwelling Capacity Analysis May 2004* Report which indicates that the South Ward will experience growth in the coming years. The VEC has considered the possible impact of such growth on the municipality under the proposed three-ward structure. The VEC is confident that,

despite these growth predictions, the recommended South Ward will absorb whatever development may occur in the next eight years without exceeding the legislative 10% limit for the voter/councillor ratio (compared with the average ratio for the Council).

The VEC considers that predicted growth in the South Ward, in the Pentridge region, and in a northern pocket of Gowanbrae, would be better accommodated under the proposed three-ward structure than it would be incorporated under the existing single-ward structure. Large, three-councillor wards are able to withstand far greater development before exceeding the allowable 10% tolerance than are single-councillor wards.

Voting system

The VEC considers that voters in the City of Moreland would benefit from the introduction of a multi-ward structure using a system of voting by proportional representation.

Under the current single-councillor ward structure, voters are entitled to elect a single councillor who may or may not reflect the diversity within the ward. So too, after the election, only one councillor is directly responsible for the ward (although voters are free to approach another councillor about any given issue). In contrast, under a multi-councillor ward system, voters are given greater choice at two crucial stages within the political process. At the voting stage, voters are given a greater say in the makeup of their council. In a three multi-councillor ward structure for example, instead of electing one councillor, voters elect either three or four councillors (depending on the ward), and have a say in constructing a significant portion of the entire council. Also, once candidates are elected, voters have a greater choice of councillors to approach, all of whom are directly responsible for their ward as well as for municipality-wide policy decisions. Under a multi-councillor ward structure, voters in the City of Moreland would be empowered by having the opportunity to elect a range of candidates and by having access to a greater range of directly accountable local representatives.

Various submissions supported the introduction of a three-ward structure and proportional representation on the grounds that such a system of voting might encourage the election of a council which would be more representative of the community and which would not be as dominated by one political party as some previous councils in the City of Moreland have tended to be. In considering an appropriate electoral structure for the City of Moreland, the VEC has considered various structures based on communities of interest in the City. The three-ward electoral structure recommended by the VEC would involve a system of voting by proportional representation. The VEC does not consider purported political affiliations and voting patterns when recommending electoral structures. However, an attribute of proportional representation is that it aims to represent the community in proportion to the voting preferences of the electors.

Several submissions highlighted the discrepancy between the number of councillors under the VEC's preferred model and under its alternative model. They questioned why it was acceptable for the alternative model to have an even number of councillors but not the preferred model. In formulating a number of councillors to recommend to the Minister, the VEC decided on 11 as the most appropriate figure. The VEC considered that this number would be appropriate for the reasons outlined

above. Also, the VEC was aware that an odd number of councillors prevents potential council deadlocks and so avoids the need for the Mayor to exercise a casting vote. The VEC put forward its alternative model as a less than optimum but functioning option.

The VEC is satisfied that the City of Moreland would be well served over the next eight years by a council of eleven councillors elected from three wards, comprising two four-councillor wards and one three-councillor ward. The VEC is confident that such a structure would provide for fair and equitable representation of the voters within this diverse municipality.

9 Appendices

9.1 Public notices of electoral representation review

Electoral Representation Review Moreland 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 Moreland City Council. The Moreland 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 Moreland. 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 Wednesday, 3 March 2004, the VEC will hold an information session on the review process at:

- 7.30 pm, Concert Hall, Moreland Civic Centre, Bell Street, Coburg.

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 Moreland City Council.

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.

若需要有關選舉代表復審的廣東話資訊，請致電 9209 0101。

Za informacije o reviziji izbornog predstavništva na hrvatskom jeziku, nazovite broj telefona 9209 0102.

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


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

Po informacie w języku polskim dotyczące kontroli reprezentatywności okręgów wyborczych należy dzwonić pod numer 9209 0112.

Para información en español sobre el estudio de la representación electoral (electoral representation review), llame al teléfono 9209 0109.

Belediye seçimlerinin gözden geçirilmesi hakkında Türkçe olarak bilgi almak için 9209 0110 numaralı telefonu arayınız.

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

City of Moreland

Preliminary Report

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) is conducting an electoral representation review for the City of Moreland. 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 Moreland is currently divided into ten wards, with one councillor representing each ward.

Preferred option

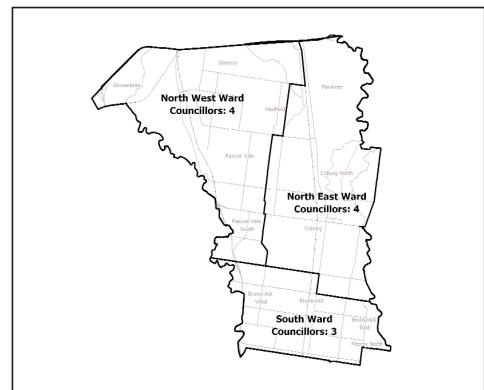
The report recommends that the City of Moreland consist of eleven councillors to be elected from three wards, comprising two four-councillor wards and one three-councillor ward.

Alternative option

The report also outlines an alternative option of a Council divided into ten wards, with one councillor representing each ward.

The maps on the right show the options.

Preferred option - Two four-councillor wards and one three-councillor ward.



Where is the report available?

Copies of the preliminary report are available from:

- The Moreland Civic Centre, 90 Bell Street, Coburg;
- 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:

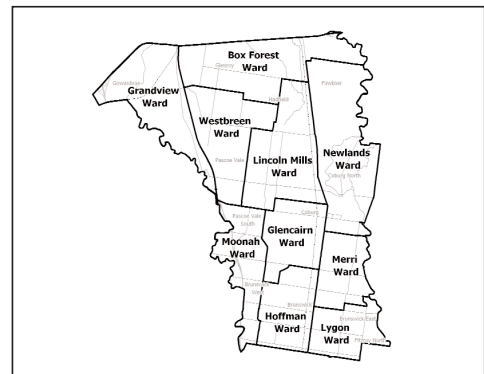
- Posted to the VEC at Level 8, 505 Little Collins Street, Melbourne Vic. 3000;
- Emailed to moreland.review@vec.vic.gov.au; or
- Faxed to 9629 9330.

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.

Alternative option - Ten single-councillor wards.



Public hearing, Tuesday, 11 May 2004

The hearing will be at the Concert Hall, Moreland Civic Centre, 90 Bell Street, Coburg. 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.

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

Po informację w języku polskim dotyczące kontroli reprezentatywności okręgów wyborczych należy dzwonić pod numer 9209 0112.

Belediye seçiminin gözden geçirilmesi hakkında Türkçe olarak bilgi almak için 9209 0110 numaralı telefonu arayınız.

若需要有關選舉代表復審的廣東話資訊，請致電 9209 0101。

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

Para información en español sobre el estudio de la representación electoral (electoral representation review), llame al teléfono 9209 0109.

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

Za informacije o reviziji izbornog predstavnštva na hrvatskom jeziku, nazovite broj telefona 9209 0102.

Electoral Representation Review Moreland City Council

Public hearing

A public hearing for the Moreland City Council electoral representation review will be held:

- When: 6.30 pm, Tuesday 11 May 2004
- Where: Moreland Civic Centre, Concert Hall, 90 Bell Street, Coburg.

The hearing is open to the public, but only those people who have indicated in their submission that they would like to speak at the hearing will be able to do so.

Further information

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

Victorian Electoral Commission



Media Release

Victorian Electoral Commission 

For immediate release

REPRESENTATION REVIEW GETS UNDERWAY

The electoral representation review for the City of Moreland 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:
Wednesday, 3 March, at 7.30 pm
Concert Hall, Moreland Civic Centre, Coburg

"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 Moreland 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 Moreland. 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:

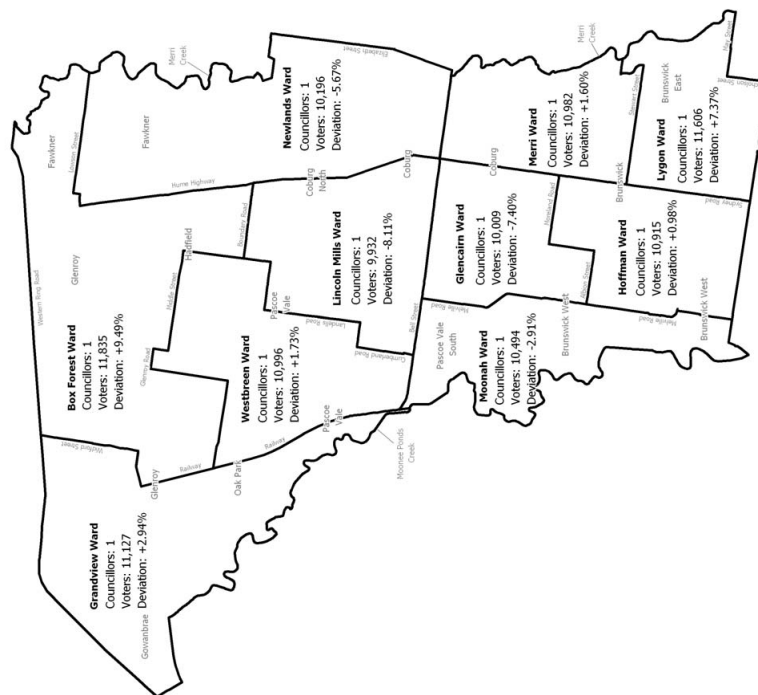
Paul Thornton-Smith
Victorian Electoral Commission
Tel: 9299 0732

Page 1 of 2

Media Release

City of Moreland

The map below shows the current ward boundaries and voter numbers as at 31 January 2004 for the City of Moreland.



Page 2 of 2

Media Release



For release from Tuesday 13 April 2004

MORELAND CITY COUNCIL ELECTORAL REPRESENTATION REVIEW: PRELIMINARY REPORT RELEASED

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) today released its preliminary report on electoral representation for the Moreland City Council. The VEC's preferred option is to have eleven councillors elected from three wards comprising two four-councillor wards and one three-councillor ward. 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 Moreland Civic Centre, 90 Bell Street, Coburg, 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 Concert Hall, Moreland Civic Centre, 90 Bell Street, Coburg, on Tuesday, 11 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 -

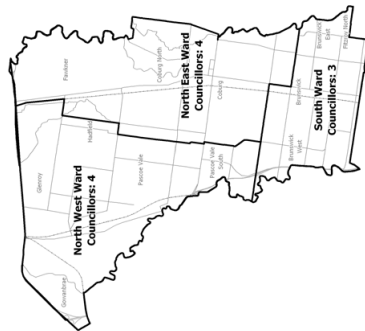
For further media information:

Paul Thornton-Smith
Victorian Electoral Commission
Tel: 9299 0732

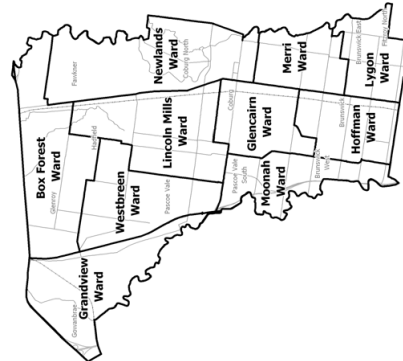
Media Fact Sheet

MAPS OF RECOMMENDED OPTIONS FOR THE MORELAND CITY COUNCIL

PREFERRED OPTION: THREE MULTI-COUNCILLOR WARDS



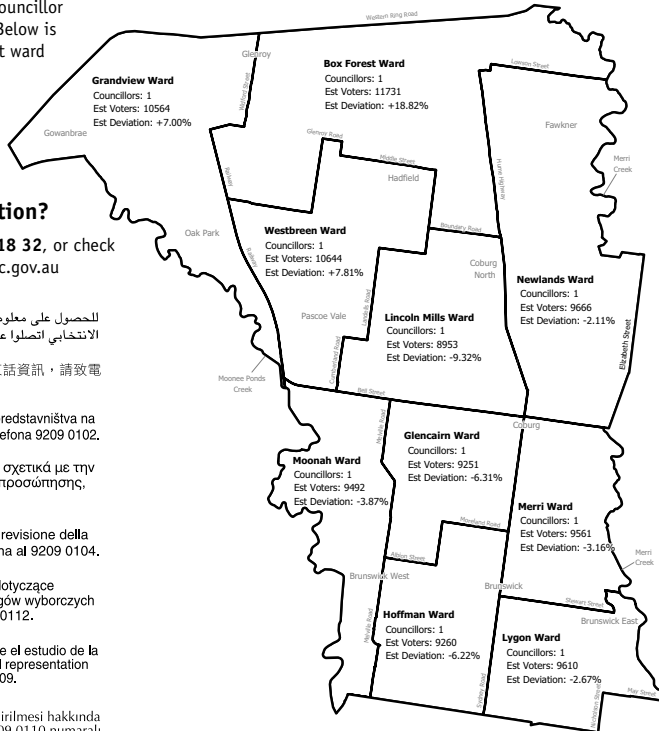
ALTERNATIVE OPTION: TEN SINGLE-COUNCILLOR WARDS



9.3 Information leaflet

Current structure of the Moreland City Council

The Moreland City Council currently has ten wards, with one councillor representing each ward. Below is a map showing the current ward boundaries, the estimated 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

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

若需要有關選舉代表復審的廣東話資訊，請致電 9209 0101。

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

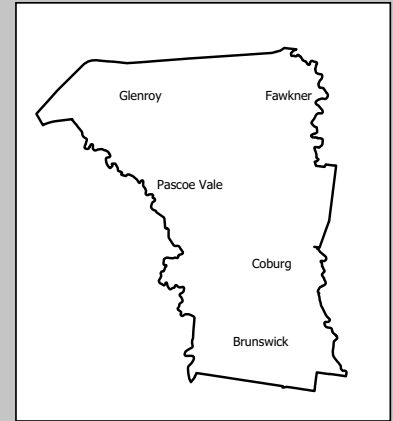
Po informację w języku polskim dotyczące kontroli reprezentatywności okręgów wyborczych należy dzwonić pod numer 9209 0112.

Para información en español sobre el estudio de la representación electoral (electoral representation review), llame al teléfono 9209 0109.

Belediye seçiminin gözden geçirilmesi hakkında Türkçe olarak bilgi almak için 9209 0110 numaralı telefonu arayınız.

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 Moreland City Council



Conducted by the

Victorian Electoral Commission

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 Moreland City Council. The Moreland 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 Moreland.

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 Moreland 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

Wednesday, 3 March 2004

Concert Hall,
Moreland Civic Centre,
Coburg – 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, Coburg

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).

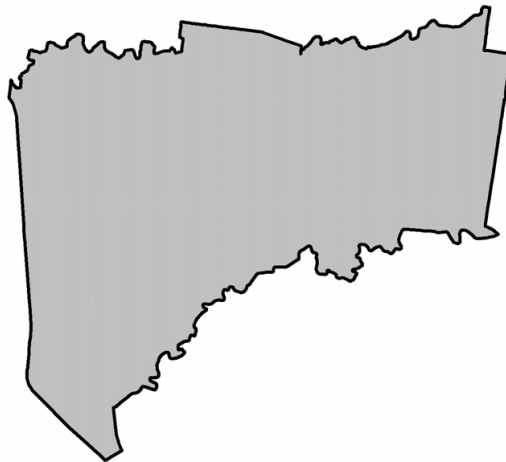
Step 6 Final Report

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.

Electoral representation review for the Moreland 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: moreland.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 Moreland City Council. The Moreland 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 Moreland.

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, 23-25 February 2004

A notice detailing the process for the review and calling for submissions has been placed in the *Moreland Leader* and the *Hume Moreland Leader*.

Leaflet

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

Information session, Wednesday, 3 March 2004

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

- 7.30 pm at the Concert Hall, Moreland Civic Centre, Coburg.

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 moreland.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 Moreland Civic Centre, 90 Bell Street, Coburg.

When the preliminary report is released, a notice in the *Moreland Leader* and the *Hume Moreland Leader* 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 Moreland 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.

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 Moreland 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.

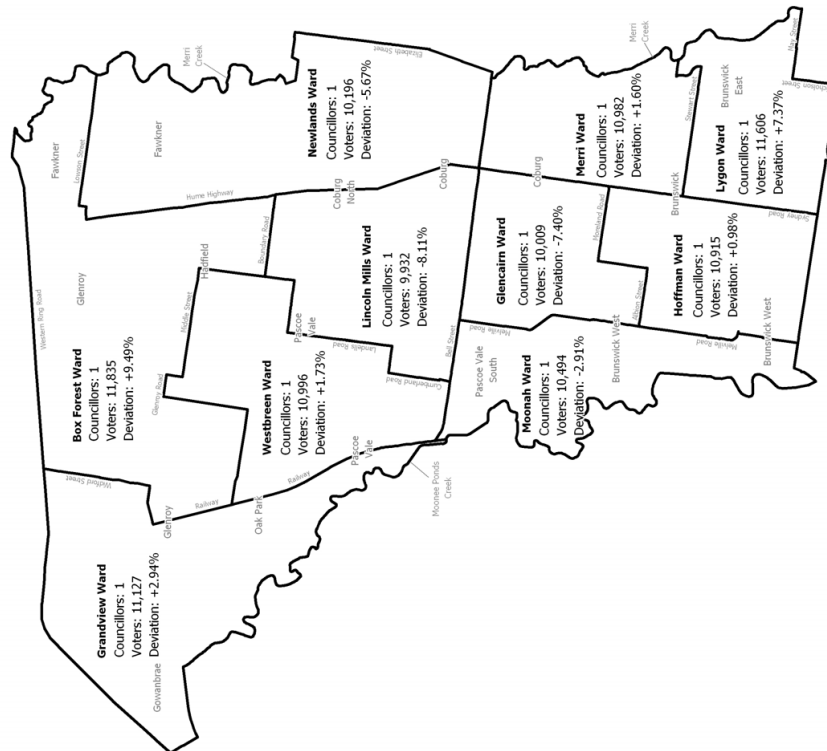
The current average annual cost of one councillor's allowance at Moreland City Council is \$18,000. This is equivalent to 0.02% of the Council's total annual operating budget.

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.

Current structure of the City of Moreland

The City of Moreland currently has ten wards, with one councillor 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.



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.

Moreland City Council is currently divided into ten wards, with one councillor 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, including Moreland, have 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 have multi-member wards or ridings. A local example is Hobsons Bay, which has four two-member wards.

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. A local 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 Moreland 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 12,454 voters for Nicholson Ward in the City of Yarra. The number of voters represented by each councillor for Nicholson Ward is 12,454 divided by 2, which equals 6,227.

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 Moreland at present no ward is outside the 10% tolerance, though Box Forest Ward is 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 with 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
Warrnambool	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	
Moyné	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

Preliminary submissions

Melissa Afentoulis	Kerrie Loughnan
Christopher Anderson	Nicole Lowe
Katerina Angelopoulos	Geoff Lutz
S Angelopoulos	Joe Mallia
Ariel Araos	Joseph Matthews
Australian Labor Party (Brunswick North Branch)	Kathleen Matthews-Ward
Ken Blair	John McCracken
Christine Campbell	Ben McGinnes
Joseph Caputo	Moreland Ethnic Communities Council
Michael Caputo	The Moreland Greens
Anthony van der Craats	Lee Naish
Alan Davis	Mark O'Brien
Janet Davis	The Proportional Representation Society of Australia (Victoria-Tasmania branch)
Joe Ficarra	Simon Pryor
John Fitzpatrick	Mike Puleston
David Glanz	Paul Puleston
Darren Grindrod	Peter Robertson
Aaron Hart	Paula Rizzuto
Bill Helem	RJ Spencer
James Hewat	Mimi Tamburrino
Mark Higginbotham	Kelvin Thomson
William Jacomb	Alison Thore and peter Murray
Robert Larocca	Gary Ward
Jenny Lobato	Vicki Yianoulatos
Lucy Loprete	

Response submissions

Melissa Afentoulis	Vera Butler
Christopher Anderson	R Calucci
Katerina Angelopoulos	Christine Campbell
S Angelopoulos	Joe Caputo
Toby Archer	Carlo Carli
Suzie van den Berselaar	S and E Chiaramonte
Ken Blair	Peter Cook
Duncan Brewer	Anthony van der Craats

Janet Davis
Con and Helen Di Gioia
N and B Di Gioia
P and M Di Gioia
Sue Di Gioia
D and A Di Pastena
Melinda Emeagi
Joe Ficarra
Tony Garcia
Andrew Gemmell
David Glanz
Darren Grindrod
Carli Hannen
Ruth Hansen
Bill Helem
Anthony Helou
James Hewat
Mark Higginbotham
William Jacomb
Jim Kyriakakis
P Lallo
Robert Larocca
Kirsty Lee
Sam Liistro
Jenny Lobato
Maria Longo
Angelo L’Oria
Kerrie Loughnan
Nicole Lowe
A and C Luci
Geoff Lutz
Gino and Mena Marrocco
Joseph Matthews
Kathleen Matthews-Ward
John McCracken

Moreland City Council
Moreland Ethnic Communities Council
The Moreland Greens
Kate Morris
William Mutton
Lee Naish
Mark O’Brien
Gino and Lucia Pelaccia
S and L Pizzo
Peter Plumridge
Matthew Potter
The Proportional Representation Society
of Australia (Victoria-Tasmania branch)
Simon Pryor
Mike Puleston
Arturo Richetti
Mark Riley
G and G Rizzo
Stephen Roach
Peter Robertson
A Rosta
Giuseppe Rotundo
Tony and Filomena Sapuppo
Andrea Sharam
G and R Sofia
John Stone
Mimi Tamburrino
Emily Taylor
Mr and Mrs Tenance
Lenka Thompson
Kelvin Thomson
Mario and Teresa Toppi
Seth Unmack
Gary Ward
Filippo and Gaetana Zullo

