

Local council electoral structure review

Preliminary Report

Campaspe Shire Council

March 2023

Acknowledgement of Country

The electoral representation advisory panel acknowledges the Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung, and Yorta Yorta peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters on which it is holding this review and pays respects to ancestors and Elders past, present and emerging. The panel acknowledges their custodianship for many thousands of years and their continuing living culture.

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Executive summary

An independent electoral structure review panel appointed by the Minister for Local Government has reviewed the structure of Campaspe Shire Council.

The panel looked at:

- whether the council had an appropriate number of councillors
- whether it should be unsubdivided or subdivided.

This report outlines the preliminary models that the panel is presenting for the proposed new electoral structure of Campaspe Shire Council to meet the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

More information about the background to the reviews is available on [page 5](#).

Developing electoral structure models

The panel considered a range of factors when deciding on the models in this report, including:

- research and analysis
- voter growth or decline over time
- public submissions (see below).

More information on the way the panel decided on the models is available on [page 6](#).

Preliminary submissions

The panel received 10 preliminary submissions. Of these, one submission included maps.

A full analysis of submissions received can be found on [page 12](#).

Electoral structure models

After considering submissions and research, the panel is presenting the following electoral structure models for further public consultation:

- Model 1: an unsubdivided electoral structure with 9 councillors.
- Model 2: a subdivided electoral structure with a total of 9 councillors, 3 wards and 3 councillors per ward.
- Model 3: a subdivided electoral structure with a total of 9 councillors, 3 wards and 3 councillors per ward.

Details on these models, including maps, are available in [Appendix 1](#).

Next steps

The panel is now seeking feedback on the electoral structure models. You can make a response submission to these models until Wednesday 12 April 2023. If any response submitters wish to speak at a public hearing, the panel will hold an online public hearing on Tuesday 18 April 2023. Following this, it will present its final recommendation to the Minister by Wednesday 17 May 2023. More information about the review process is available on the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) website at vec.vic.gov.au.

Background

About the 2023–24 electoral structure reviews

In October 2022, the Minister for Local Government formed 2 electoral representation advisory panels to review the electoral structures of 39 local councils, under section 16 of Victoria's Local Government Act 2020 (the Act). If the Minister accepts the electoral structures the panels recommend, they will take effect at the October 2024 elections.

The Act introduced several changes to local government representation, including the types of electoral structures local councils may have. Large and small rural shire councils (including Campaspe Shire Council) can have one of 3 electoral structures:

- unsubdivided (entire council area with no wards)
- single-councillor wards
- multi-councillor wards with the same number of councillors per ward.

For Campaspe Shire Council, the electoral representation advisory panel is examining:

- the number of councillors
- whether the council should be subdivided into wards or unsubdivided.

For subdivided structures, it is also examining:

- the number of wards
- where the ward boundaries should be
- the name of each ward
- how many councillors should be elected for each ward.

The Act requires electoral structures to provide fair and equitable representation and facilitate good governance. For subdivided structures, each ward must have an approximately equal number of voters per councillor (within +/-10% of the average).

The electoral representation advisory panel

The panel conducting the electoral structure review of Campaspe Shire Council has 3 members:

- The Honourable Frank Vincent AO KC (Chairperson)
- Ms Liz Williams PSM
- Electoral Commissioner, Mr Warwick Gately AM.

The panel is independent of councils and the State government.

Under the Act, the VEC is not responsible for reviewing council electoral structures but must provide administrative and technical support to the panel. The Electoral Commissioner (or their delegate) must be a member of each panel.

Public engagement

Public information program

To educate and inform the public about the Campaspe Shire Council electoral structure review, the VEC began a public information program in mid-December 2022. The VEC:

- printed public notices in state-wide newspapers
- held public information sessions to outline the review process and respond to questions from the community
- sent out media releases to announce the start of the review
- published information on its social media channels
- provided updated website content on vec.vic.gov.au, including:
 - information on the review process
 - submission guides and fact sheets for each council under review with background information
 - preliminary submissions from the public.

The VEC will continue to promote the review during the response submissions stage via media releases, the VEC's social media channels and updated content on the VEC website.

Public consultation

The panel encouraged public input to the review of Campaspe Shire Council via preliminary submissions at the start of the review. The panel now invites further input via:

- response submissions to this preliminary report
- an online public hearing to provide anyone who makes a response submission the opportunity to expand on their submission.

Public submissions are an important part of the review process but the panel also considers other factors during a review. These are outlined below.

Developing recommendations

The panel's electoral structure models presented in this preliminary report comply with the Act and were developed through careful consideration of:

- research and analysis conducted by the VEC support team, including geospatial and demographic factors
- rates or patterns of population and voter growth or decline over time, and relevant forecasts of growth or decline based on forecast information provided by .id (informed decisions, a company specialising in demographics and forecasting)
- input received from the public in written submissions during the preliminary submissions phase.

Deciding on the number of councillors

The Act allows local councils to have between 5 and 12 councillors, but neither the Act nor the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020 specify how to determine the number of councillors a council needs. Therefore, the models put forward by the panel in this report are guided by the Act's intention for fairness and equity in voter representation.

In examining the number of councillors Campaspe Shire Council should have, the panel considered these factors:

- the population and number of voters in the council area, compared to other councils with a similar population size and number of voters in the same category (for example, metropolitan, interface, regional city, large rural shire, small rural shire)
- patterns of population change and voter growth or decline in the council area over time
- the current and past numbers of councillors
- the representation needs of the communities of interest in the council area
- if a particular type of electoral structure best suits the council (see 'Deciding the electoral structure' below)
- any matter raised in public submissions not already listed above.

Generally, local councils with a larger number of voters will have a higher number of councillors. Large populations are often more likely to have greater diversity, both in the type and number of communities of interest and issues relating to representation. However, the ideal number of councillors can also be influenced by the particular circumstances of a council, such as the:

- nature and complexity of services the council provides
- geographic size and topography of the area
- forecast population and voter growth or decline
- social diversity.

Deciding the electoral structure

The electoral structure of large and small rural shire councils can be:

- unsubdivided (entire council area with no wards)
 - made up of single-councillor wards
- or
- made up of multi-councillor wards with the same number of councillors per ward.

When developing electoral structure models for Campaspe Shire Council, the panel considered these main criteria:

- whether the structure would comply with section 15(2) of the Act (see below), and for how long it would likely comply
- the appropriate number of councillors, as outlined above

- whether meaningful and effective ward boundaries can be established and whether these would be easily identifiable to local communities
- representation of communities of interest
- the voter distribution and physical features of the area, and the impact these may have on the shape and size of any wards
- past elections for the council, including:
 - numbers of candidates nominating
 - incidences of uncontested elections
 - rates of informal voting.
- other matters raised in public submissions not already listed above.

Under section 15(2) of the Act, subdivided structures must aim for an approximately equal number of voters per councillor in each ward. This means the number of voters represented by each councillor in a ward should be within +/-10% of the average number of voters per councillor for all wards.

The panel recommends structures that will comply with section 15(2) at the October 2024 local council elections and uses current voter numbers and population forecasts to assess this with as much accuracy as possible. In some cases, population changes and other factors mean it is not possible for a subdivided electoral structure to comply with section 15(2) based on current voter numbers. If this occurs, compliance at the 2024 local council elections will be the priority to ensure each vote has approximately equal value.

About Campaspe Shire Council

Profile

Campaspe Shire Council is a large rural council located in north-central Victoria, about 180 km north of Melbourne. Covering an area of 4,519 km², the shire is mainly located in the riverine plains of northern Victoria and sits within the Murray-Darling Basin. The nationally important Murray River and the Goulburn River form the northern border, and Campaspe Shire is surrounded by 6 other Victorian shires.

The Traditional Custodians of Campaspe are the Taungurung, Dja Dja Wurrung, and Yorta Yorta peoples.

Landscape

The shire is named after the Campaspe River, which runs in a north-south direction. The Campaspe River forms the southwest boundary and then passes through the centre of the shire and through the towns of Rochester and Echuca. Water lends to the Campaspe identity, through its rivers, irrigation communities and the Port of Echuca's historic linkages.

The Gunbower Forest, which includes Ramsar wetlands of international importance (DEPI, 2013), is in the northwest corner of the shire, and in the southeast is the Rushworth State Forest. Kow Swamp, in the northwest, is a site of international importance due to the presence of an ancient burial site, showing signs of human habitation from between 9,500 to 14,000 years ago (Dorey, 2021).

At the 2021 Census, Campaspe Shire had a population of 38,735 people, with about two-thirds of people residing in the major townships and the remaining third living in rural areas. The shire has five main service centres: Echuca, Kyabram, Rochester, Tongala, and Rushworth, plus many smaller towns. Echuca is the largest with a population of 13,764 people at the 2021 Census. The next largest town is Kyabram (with a population of 6,010) followed by Rochester (2,802), Tongala (1,331), Rushworth (972), Stanhope (486), Lockington (395) and Gunbower (303) (ABS, 2021).

The main transport linkages in the shire include the Northern, Midland and Murray Valley highways. Echuca is serviced by 2 active railway lines, one which runs to Shepparton and one which runs to Bendigo. Echuca also has a small airport.

Community

The shire is forecast to have moderate levels of growth between 2023 and 2036, with an annual average growth rate of 0.5%. The majority of this growth is expected to occur around Echuca which is forecast to increase particularly in Echuca (West) which will increase from 6,441 to 8,747. Kyabram East (from 3,554 to 4,220) and Kyabram West (from 4,235 to 4,954) are also

forecast to have small population increases between 2023 and 2036. The regional areas of the shire are not forecast to have any significant population changes.

Primary production accounts for 91% of land use (DJSIR, 2022). The shire has high quality irrigated agricultural land in its northeast, supporting dairy production and orcharding. Dryland and extensive agricultural practices tend to be favoured in the west and south of the shire (Agriculture Victoria, 2023).

The 2021 Census reported 18,010 residents in the labour force, with 9,840 working full-time and 6,083 working part-time. A total of 1,446 residents reported as being away from work, while 639 reported as being unemployed, which at 3.5% is lower than for regional Victoria (4.1%) (ABS, 2021).

In Campaspe, dairy farming (921 people) is the main industry of employment, followed by hospitals (904), aged care residential services (547), other social assistance services (519) and supermarket and grocery stores (497). Residents living in Campaspe Shire are mainly employed as managers (2,898), technicians and trades workers (2,592), labourers (2,489), professionals (2,482), and community and personal service workers (2,125) (ABS, 2021).

Campaspe has a greater percentage of residents in all age brackets over 50 years, when compared to the Victorian population (ABS, 2021). In terms of ancestry, residents identify as being Australian (43.6%), English (42%), Irish (12.0%), Scottish (10.8%), and German (4.0%). Residents were predominantly born in Australia (84.8%), with smaller numbers of people born in England (1.7%), New Zealand (1.0%), Philippines (0.8%), Italy (0.4%), and India (0.3%) (ABS, 2021). There were 1,169 people who identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples in the 2021 Census. At 3% of the population, this is higher than for Victoria (1%) and is close to the Australian percentage (3.2%) (ABS, 2021).

English was the only language used at home for 89.2% of residents, compared to the Victorian average of 67.2%. Households where a non-English language is present, at 5.4%, is far lower than that for Victorian households (30.2%). The median personal weekly income for Campaspe was \$668 (compared to \$803 for Victoria), the median family weekly income was \$1,630 (compared to \$2,136 for Victoria), and the median household weekly income was \$1,264 (compared to \$1,759 for Victoria) (ABS, 2021).

Residents are more likely to own houses outright (41.7%) when compared with the Victorian percentage (32.2%). A lesser number of residents own their home with a mortgage (31.6%), and residents who rent account for 22% of tenure type (ABS, 2021).

Current number of councillors and electoral structure

Campaspe Shire Council is currently divided into 5 wards with a total of 9 councillors:

- 2 wards with 3 councillors each
- 3 wards with one councillor each.

There are approximately 31,046 voters in Campaspe Shire Council, with a ratio of 3,450 voters per councillor.

Visit the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au for more information on Campaspe Shire Council.

Last electoral structure review

The VEC conducted an electoral representation review of Campaspe Shire Council in 2019. This representation review was carried out under the *Local Government Act 1989*, which was replaced by the *Local Government Act 2020*.

After conducting the review, the VEC recommended that Campaspe Shire Council continue to consist of 9 councillors elected from 5 wards.

Visit the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au to access a copy of the 2019 representation review final report.

Before the 2019 review, the VEC held a representation review of Campaspe Shire Council in 2007. This resulted in the current electoral structure being implemented. Before the 2007 representation review, Campaspe Shire Council comprised of 6 wards with a total of 7 councillors (one ward with 2 councillors and 5 wards with one councillor each).

Preliminary submissions

The panel received 10 preliminary submissions from the public by the deadline of 5 pm on Wednesday 22 February 2023. You can view these submissions on the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au and find a list of people or organisations who made a submission in [Appendix 3](#).

The table below provides an overview of preferences in the preliminary submissions. You can read an analysis of submissions below this table.

	Unsubdivided structure	Single-councillor wards	Multi-councillor wards	Subdivided structure (unspecified)	No comment on structure
Fewer councillors	1	-	-	-	-
Maintain current councillor number	-	1	7	-	-
More councillors	-	-	-	-	-
No comment on number of councillors	-	1	-	-	-

Number of councillors

Of the 10 preliminary submissions, 8 recommended maintaining the current number of councillors at 9, one recommended a reduction to 5 councillors and one made no comment about the number of councillors.

Maintaining 9 councillors

Of the 8 preliminary submissions in favour of maintaining the current number of councillors, few provided reasons in support of this. This implied that these submitters were generally satisfied with 9 councillors for the shire.

Reducing councillor numbers

The submitter who recommended a reduction to 5 councillors argued that this, in addition to an unsubdivided structure, would benefit the shire as a whole and may lead to improved performance of individual councillors.

Electoral structure

The clear majority of submissions favoured a subdivided structure, with only one submission supporting an unsubdivided electoral structure. The most popular was a multi-councillor ward electoral structure.

Unsubdivided

One submission proposed the shire be changed to an unsubdivided structure, arguing that this structure could result in councillors being responsible for the whole shire, rather than for their wards only.

The theme presented across most submissions, however, was strong opposition to an unsubdivided structure. Most believed an unsubdivided structure would result in a majority of councillors coming from Echuca, which may result in country areas being poorly represented.

Single-councillor wards

Two submitters supported a structure of 9 wards with one councillor in each ward, one of whom felt this structure would deliver local representation for country areas. The general concern of these submitters was that an unsubdivided structure would result in poor representation for the country areas and that Echuca would receive the majority of services, to the detriment of the regions.

Multi-councillor wards

Of the 10 submissions, 7 supported a multi-councillor ward structure of 3 wards with 3 councillors elected from each. One additional submission proposed this as their second preference.

The submissions generally considered an amalgamation of Western, Waranga, and Rochester wards into one large ward, and maintaining Echuca and Kyabram-Deakin wards to be the most suitable option. These submitters felt the current ward boundaries and population deviations to be suitable to achieve the necessary permissible structure.

Several other submissions recommended a structure of 3 wards, consisting mainly of a northern ward, a western ward, and an eastern ward. The northern ward would contain Echuca. The western ward included Echuca West, Gunbower, Torrumbarry, Lockington, Rochester and Toolleen. The eastern ward would contain Tongala, Kyabram, Girgarre, Stanhope, Corop, Colbinabbin and Rushworth/Whroo.

A common theme throughout these submissions was the belief that the proposed structure would ensure smaller towns had equal representation.

Preliminary findings and models

Number of councillors

After taking into consideration the requirements of the Act, public submissions and the agreed criteria, the panel found 9 councillors to be an appropriate number for Campaspe Shire Council.

The panel considered the characteristics of the shire in relation to similar rural shire councils, including its size and geography, population and the number and distribution of voters across the shire.

Similar rural shire councils to Campaspe Shire Council						
Local council	Area (km ²)	Number of voters at 2020 election	Population (2021 Census)	Current total estimate of voters	Number of councillors	Number of voters per councillor
Wellington Shire	10,817	40,220	45,639	41,338	9	4,593
Macedon Ranges Shire	1,748	38,068	51,458	39,622	9	4,402
Mitchell Shire	2,862	34,595	49,460	36,928	9	4,103
Surf Coast Shire*	1,553	33,644	37,694	35,330	9	3,926
Campaspe Shire*	4,519	30,493	38,735	31,046	9	3,450
Moorabool Shire*	2,111	27,947	37,632	28,815	7	4,116
South Gippsland Shire	3,296	n/a	30,577	27,964	9	3,107
Moira Shire	4,046	24,290	30,522	24,974	9	2,775
Colac Otway Shire	3,438	19,697	22,423	20,060	7	2,866

*The local council is undergoing an electoral structure review during 2023–24.

Maintaining 9 councillors

When deciding on councillor numbers, one of the main considerations is ensuring a consistent, state-wide approach is taken. The panel considered Campaspe Shire compared well with similar councils, and thus was appropriate for it to maintain the current number of councillors. Moreover, this was the position advocated in the majority of submissions, indicating that the current number of councillors has served the shire well. The above table shows comparable shires to Campaspe, which sits amongst other 9-councillor shires.

Increasing councillor numbers

The panel did not identify sufficient reasons to justify an increase in the number of councillors. When Campaspe was compared to large shire councils with similar populations the panel noted that they all have 9 councillors, except for Moorabool Shire Council (currently being reviewed as part of the 2023-24 local council electoral structure review process). Also, while the population of Campaspe is increasing, it is not growing rapidly, especially when compared to similar councils. In the preliminary public submissions, none of the 10 submissions suggested increasing councillor numbers.

Reducing councillor numbers

The panel considered a potential model which had 8 councillors in a structure of 4 wards with 2 councillors each. Despite the strengths of the 8-councillor model, the panel considered 9 councillors to be most suitable for Campaspe, and found a reduction to 8 was not necessary given the benefits of the 8-councillor model were also found in models with 9 councillors.

Electoral structure

To identify the most appropriate electoral structure, various factors were considered. This included the requirements of the Act, the communities of interest in Campaspe Shire, public submissions, the appropriateness of ward boundaries and which models best offered fair and equitable representation.

In developing the preliminary models presented in this report, a range of models were considered. The strongest 3 models have been put forward for further public comment.

The panel proposes 3 models for the consideration of the Campaspe Shire community:

- an unsubdivided electoral structure ([Model 1](#))
- a subdivided electoral structure of 3 wards, with 3 councillors per ward ([Model 2](#))
- a subdivided electoral structure of 3 wards, with 3 councillors per ward ([Model 3](#)).

Diagrams of the preliminary models are included in [Appendix 1](#).

All the models presented here are based on Campaspe having 9 councillors, which as described in the previous section, the panel believed was an appropriate number of councillors for Campaspe Shire Council.

Unsubdivided structure (Model 1)

Under this model, Campaspe Shire Council would adopt an unsubdivided electoral structure, represented by 9 councillors.

The panel considered the advantages and disadvantages of an unsubdivided structure. One matter considered was the potential for most councillors to come from larger towns, especially Echuca, which has one third of the population. A theme in preliminary submissions was the desire not to have an unsubdivided structure, mainly due to concerns this may result in poor representation in country towns and most councillors coming from Echuca.

Despite the concerns raised regarding the potential disadvantages of an unsubdivided model, there was consensus that the model should be included for further consideration because of its viability.

While some submitters raised concerns about an unsubdivided structure possibly leading to poor representation for less populated areas, unsubdivided electoral structures may encourage a shire-wide approach to representation amongst councillors and allow for greater diversity on council. The panel noted that proportional representation (the system used at elections under an unsubdivided model) should provide for strong candidates from less populated areas to be elected. The panel also noted that subdivided structures do not guarantee local representation given that candidates do not have to live in the ward they nominate for.

It was also felt that an unsubdivided structure would avoid some of the problems related to ward-based structures.

An unsubdivided structure may be of benefit in circumstances where a council has a history of low candidate numbers and uncontested elections, which has been the case for Campaspe. Moreover, unsubdivided structures can be beneficial in situations where voters are spread unevenly across the council area. For instance, Echuca contains about one third of the shire's population, while the more rural areas are sparsely populated. Having an unsubdivided structure avoids the need to create wards unequal in area to accommodate such uneven population distribution. An unsubdivided model also removes the need for towns and communities to be divided arbitrarily.

Multi-councillor ward structure: 3 wards with 3 councillors per ward (Model 2)

Under this model, Campaspe Shire Council would adopt a 3-ward structure. Each ward would be represented by 3 councillors, in line with the requirement of the Act for there to be the same number of councillors per ward. This model was developed with the aim of maintaining existing ward boundaries as much as possible, while keeping all wards within the +/-10% deviation range.

A major change for the shire under this model is the amalgamation of the current Western, Rochester, and Waranga wards into the large Rochester-Rushworth Ward. To account for population growth, Echuca Ward is reduced in size. The current southern boundary is moved north, while the current northwest area of the ward has been excised into the neighbouring Rochester-Rushworth Ward. The current Kyabram-Deakin Ward boundaries have been maintained, except in the northwest where it has absorbed part of the current Echuca Ward.

Although most of the Echuca township is contained within the Echuca Ward, a small area in the southeast of the town (south of the corner of Mary Ann Road and the Murray Valley Highway) had to be placed in the Kyabram-Deakin Ward.

As is the case with multi-councillor ward structures in general, Model 2 has some of the benefits of unsubdivided structures, including: potential for increased councillor diversity as minority groups may find it easier to gain representation and reduced possibility of uncontested elections. This structure also received the most support in submissions.

One potential drawback of this model was the large Rochester-Rushworth Ward. Councillors representing this ward would have a large area to cover in carrying out their duties. There was also some concern that a ward of this size may mix communities with little connection to each other.

Multi-councillor ward structure: 3 wards with 3 councillors per ward (Model 3)

Under this model, Campaspe Shire Council would adopt a 3-ward structure. Each ward would be represented by 3 councillors, in line with the requirement of the Act for there to be the same number of councillors per ward.

A feature of this model was greater use of the Campaspe River as a clear and identifiable ward boundary. There are two key areas when the boundary does not adhere to the Campaspe River: the boundary going to the east of, rather than through, Rochester; and, where the boundary departs from the Campaspe River in Echuca, near the corner of Anstruther and Homan streets. In both cases, these adjustments were necessary for the model to adhere to the +/-10 requirement and to avoid splitting the town of Rochester between 2 wards.

Overall, this model provides wards of relatively similar geographic size. The panel noted that it is generally preferable to have wards of a similar size, a possible advantage of this model compared to the unevenly-sized wards in Model 2.

The proposed Murray Ward covers the northwest of the shire and includes about half of the Echuca township, all of Rochester and areas to the west of the Campaspe River. The Waranga Ward mostly covers the southern section of the shire but reaches up into the northeast to include Kyabram. The Goulburn Ward encompasses a large northeast part of the shire and includes Tongala and the western side of Echuca.

A potential drawback with this model is the creation of new ward boundaries which residents may not be familiar with. Further, Echuca is also split between wards in this model, which may lead to concerns that candidates from Echuca will dominate the elections of both wards.

Models considered but not put forward

A single-councillor ward model

A single-councillor ward model with 9 councillors was examined, however was not put forward for further public consultation due to concerns about the suitability of this structure for the shire.

Campaspe Shire Council has a history of uncontested elections in the Waranga and Western wards under the current electoral structure, and there were concerns that moving to a single-councillor ward structure would further exacerbate the risks of uncontested elections and possibly lead to failed elections in future.

Another shortcoming of the single-councillor model ward was that, in order to meet the +/-10% requirement across all wards, it was necessary for ward boundaries to be located along features that may not be meaningful or easily identifiable for communities, and in some cases it would necessarily divide communities to balance voter numbers across wards.

A final concern raised was that residents in single-councillor ward structures only have a single elected representative. This reduces the options available for residents to connect with their elected representatives. In comparison, in an unsubdivided or multi-councillor ward structure, residents may have more options when seeking to connect with or raise concerns with their councillors. This model can be viewed in [Appendix 2](#).

A multi-councillor ward model

An 8-councillor model which had 4 wards with 2 councillors each was also examined. The model had 3 wards in the north and one geographically large ward in the south. While the model had strong boundaries and appeared to be robust when considering forecast population growth, this model was not put forward for further public consultation as the panel did not consider a reduction to 8 councillors to be appropriate for Campaspe Shire. The 8-councillor model considered by the panel can be viewed in [Appendix 2](#).

Models for public feedback

The panel considers all models outlined below to offer fair and equitable representation for voters in Campaspe Shire Council. Please see [Appendix 1](#) for detailed maps of these models.

Model 1

Campaspe Shire Council has an unsubdivided electoral structure with 9 councillors.

Model 2

Campaspe Shire Council has 9 councillors and is divided into 3 wards with 3 councillors per ward.

Model 3

Campaspe Shire Council has 9 councillors and is divided into 3 wards with 3 councillors per ward.

Ward names

The panel has suggested ward names to identify the wards in Model 2 and Model 3 and invites comments from the community on these names as part of submissions responding to this preliminary report.

Next steps

Response submissions

Any person or group, including the local council under review, can make a response submission to the electoral representation advisory panel. In your submission, you should address the models proposed by the panel in this preliminary report.

You can make a submission:

	<p>Online</p> <p>Visit vec.vic.gov.au to make a submission online.</p> <p>You will need to make an account to use the online Public Submission Tool and can save a draft submission to finish later.</p>
	<p>By email</p> <p>Campaspe.ERAPSubmissions@vec.vic.gov.au</p>
	<p>By post</p> <p>Electoral Representation Advisory Panel c/o Victorian Electoral Commission Level 11, 530 Collins St Melbourne VIC 3000</p>

The panel must receive all response submissions before 5 pm on Wednesday 12 April 2023. If you post your submission, make sure it has enough time to reach the panel before the deadline. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Required information

For your submission to be considered, you must include your:

- full name
- contact phone number or email address
- postal or residential address.

The panel will not consider submissions without this information. If you are submitting as a group or organisation, you must include the name of a nominated contact person who is authorised to submit on behalf of your group.

The VEC will handle information provided by submitters in accordance with the privacy policy available at vec.vic.gov.au/privacy

Public access to submissions

To ensure transparency in the electoral structure review process, your submission will be published on the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au The VEC will remove your signature and

contact details, including residential and postal addresses, from all public copies but must publish your full name (or group name) and locality (suburb or town).

Public hearing

If you make a response submission, you can also ask to speak at an online public hearing to support your submission and expand on your views.

The online public hearing is scheduled for:

Time: 10 am

Date: Tuesday 18 April 2023

The panel encourages participation in the public hearing. If you wish to speak at the public hearing, you **must** indicate this in your response submission. The public hearing will not be held if there are no requests to speak.

Anyone can attend a public hearing, but you will only be able to speak if you asked to in your response submission. If you ask to speak, the VEC will contact you to arrange a time for you at the hearing. You will have 10 minutes to address the public hearing panel, which will include at least 2 of the review panel members. The members of the public hearing panel may ask you questions.

Visit the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au for more information on public hearings.

Final report

Following the public hearing, the review panel will consider all evidence gathered and publish a final report for the Minister for Local Government containing a recommendation for the number of councillors and the electoral structure for the local council.

The final report is scheduled to be published on Wednesday 17 May 2023. If the recommendation is accepted, any changes will apply at the October 2024 local council elections.

The final report will be available on the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au or you can request a printed copy by calling 131 832.

References

- Agriculture Victoria (2023) *Invest in Victorian agriculture: interactive resource map*.
<https://invest.agriculture.vic.gov.au/#/map?lat=144.86973592065863&lon=-36.42931971277041&z=10.010932800469453&bm=bm3&l=mb1:y:100,ag01:n:100,mb0:y:38,fp3:y:100,mb2:n:100> accessed January 17, 2023.
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- Campaspe Shire Council (2023) *About Council: Proud Past*.
<https://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/Our-council/About-council/Proud-past> accessed February 27, 2023.
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https://www.water.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/52821/FINAL_Gunbower_Forest_Boundary_Description_Dec2013.pdf accessed February 15, 2023.
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<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrjoiMDZiNDdkMDEtNWY5MC00ZWE5LWFIZDQtOTUxZDFINDU1OTJjliwidCI6IjcyMmVhMGJILTNIWWMtNGIxMS1hZDZmLTk0MDFkNjg1NmUyNCJ9> accessed February 24, 2023.
- Dorey, F. (2021) *When did modern humans get to Australia?*
<https://australian.museum/learn/science/human-evolution/the-spread-of-people-to-australia/> accessed February 15, 2023.
- Local Government Act 1989* (Vic)
- Local Government Act 2020* (Vic)
- Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020 (Vic)

Appendix 1: Model maps

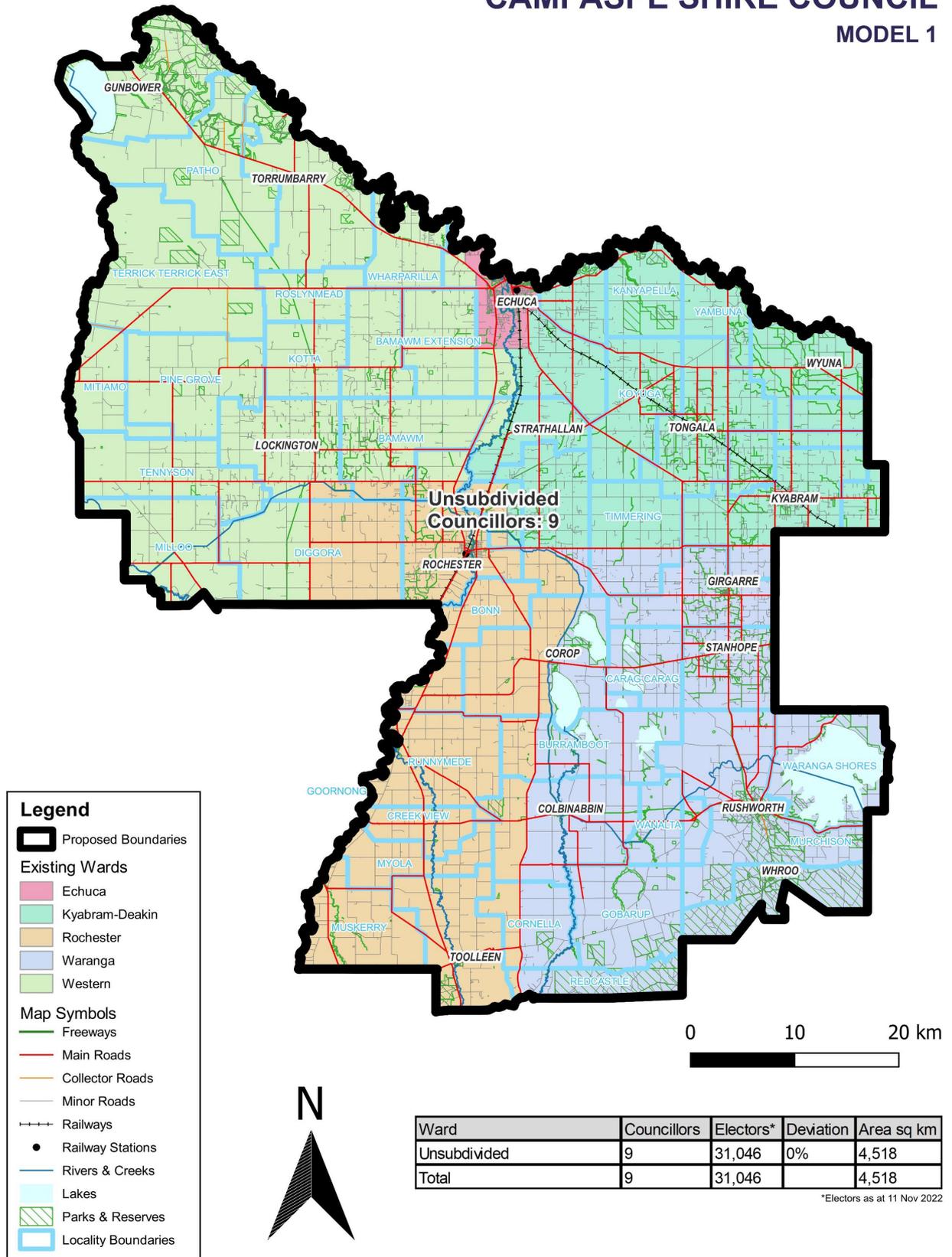
The following maps are included in this report:

Map	Page
Model 1 – an unsubdivided electoral structure with 9 councillors	24
Model 2 – a multi-councillor ward structure with a total of 9 councillors, 3 wards and 3 councillors per ward	25
Model 3 – a multi-councillor ward structure with a total of 9 councillors, 3 wards and 3 councillors per ward	26

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CAMPASPE SHIRE COUNCIL

MODEL 1

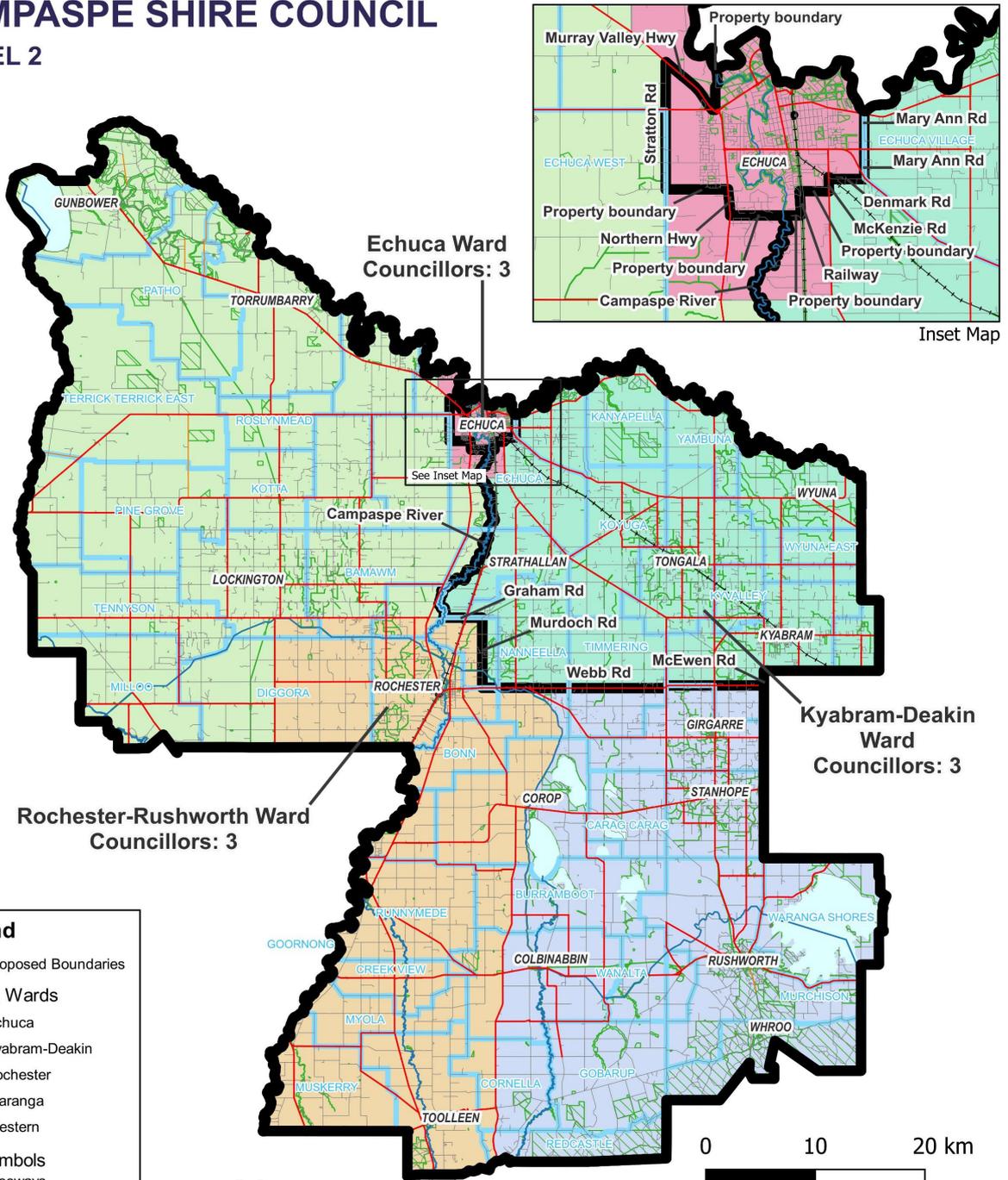


Map prepared by:

Data use:

CAMPASPE SHIRE COUNCIL

MODEL 2



Legend

- Proposed Boundaries
- Existing Wards**
 - Echuca
 - Kyabram-Deakin
 - Rochester
 - Waranga
 - Western
- Map Symbols**
 - Freeways
 - Main Roads
 - Collector Roads
 - Minor Roads
 - Railways
 - Railway Stations
 - Rivers & Creeks
 - Lakes
 - Parks & Reserves
 - Locality Boundaries



Ward	Councillors	Electors*	Deviation	Area sq km
Echuca Ward	3	10,783	+4.2%	24
Kyabram-Deakin Ward	3	10,042	-2.96%	890
Rochester-Rushworth Ward	3	10,221	-1.23%	3,604
Total	9	31,046		4,518
Average		3,450		1,506

*Electors as at 11 Nov 2022

Map prepared by:

Data use:

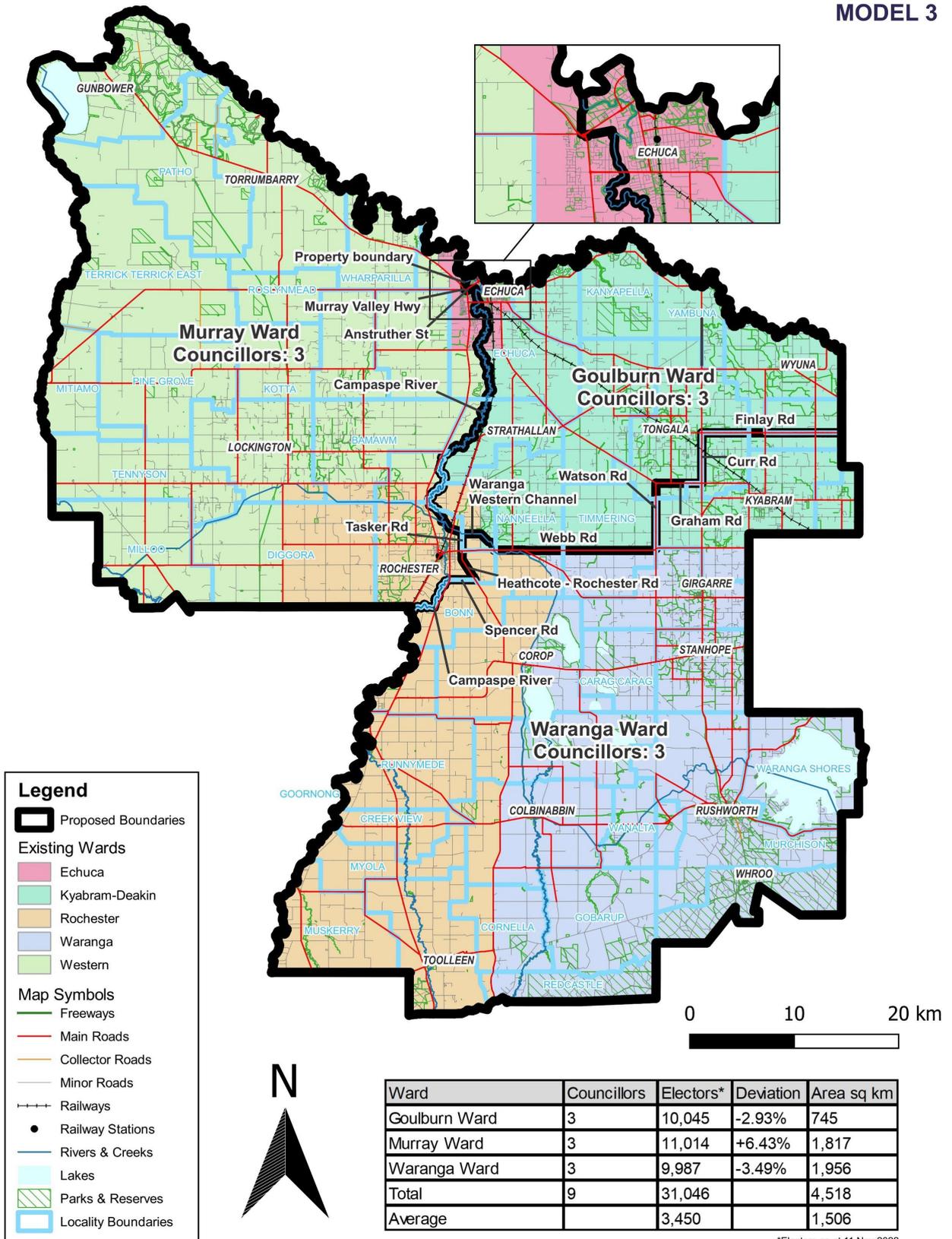


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CAMPASPE SHIRE COUNCIL

MODEL 3



Map prepared by:



Data use:



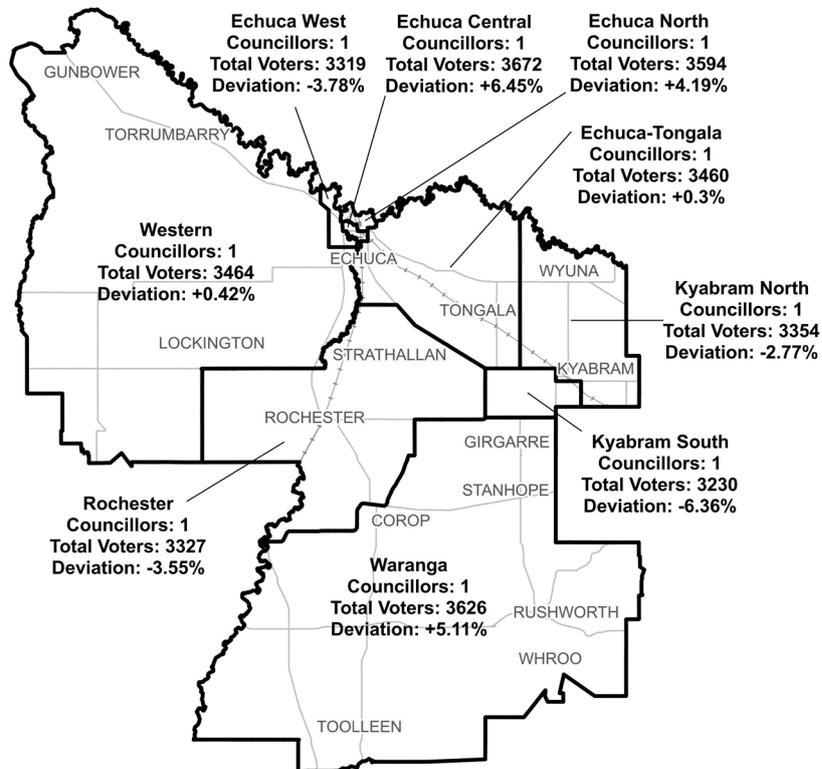
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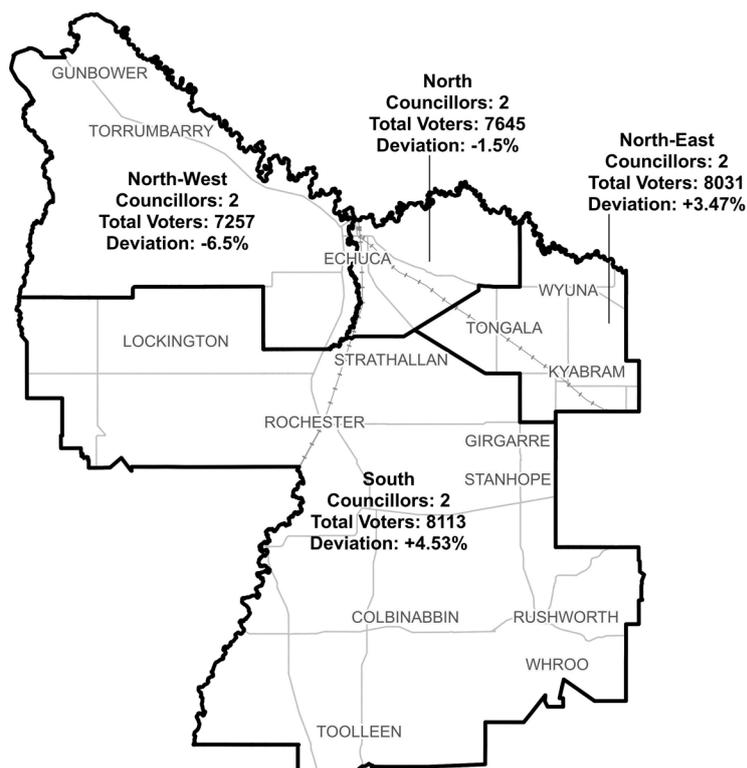
Appendix 2: Additional models considered

The following models were closely considered by the panel but are not being put forward for further public consultation. See [Models considered but not put forward](#) for further information.

A single-councillor ward model with 9 councillors



A multi-councillor ward model with 8 councillors



Appendix 3: List of preliminary submitters

The review received 10 preliminary submissions.

Preliminary submissions were made by:

Brown, Sandra

Kyabram Deakin Ratepayers Residents and Development Group Inc.

Maddock, Glenn

McKenzie, Don

Nichol, Glenda

Norris, Jack

O'Connor, Leo

Salter, Joy

Stanhope and District Development Committee Inc.

Weeks, Alan

