

Local council electoral structure review

About Mornington Peninsula Shire Council

The Traditional Custodians of the land in the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council area are the Bunurong people.

Mornington Peninsula is an interface council located about 50 kms south of the Melbourne CBD. It covers an area of 724 km² bounded mostly by coastline, extending south from Mt Eliza to Point Nepean, east to Cape Schanck and north along Western Port Bay to take in Hastings and Tyabb. In 2021 the population was 168,948.

Most of the council area is covered by green wedge planning provisions, which prevents development encroaching on areas of environmental or scenic value. The large hinterland also supports important agricultural activities, such as vineyards and livestock.

Urban living accounts for the remaining land use, with most residents living on the Port Phillip Bay side of the council area. This area also supports a high concentration of holiday homes.

The population of the council area is estimated to grow by over 6% by 2036, most of which will be accommodated in Mornington and Rosebud along the bay and Hastings in the east.

The council area is a key tourist destination and the population surges during the holiday months. The local economy also includes construction, health care, manufacturing, and business services.

Current structure

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council is divided into 6 wards with a total of 11 councillors:

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

About the review

Under Victoria's *Local Government Act 2020*, Mornington Peninsula Shire Council must now have a single-councillor ward electoral structure.

The Minister for Local Government has appointed an electoral representation advisory panel to review the electoral structure of Mornington Peninsula Shire Council and advise on the most appropriate single-councillor ward structure.

The panel is looking at:

- the appropriate number of councillors and wards
- the location of ward boundaries
- appropriate ward names.

Electoral structure reviews are an important part of democracy and your input is valuable. As a local, you know your council area better than anyone. This is your chance to let the panel know your thoughts about the single-councillor ward structure you believe would best provide representation for your community.

You can have your say:

1. in a response submission to the preliminary report
2. at an online public hearing, if you ask to speak in your response submission.

Last review

The VEC conducted an electoral representation review of Mornington Peninsula Shire Council in 2012.

Visit the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au to access a copy of the 2012 review final report.

Review process

Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 October

Information sessions

Session 1: 12 noon, Monday 23 October

Session 2: 6 pm, Tuesday 24 October

These sessions will give you more information about the review process. You will be able to register for a session on the VEC website.

Wednesday 25 October

Preliminary report

The panel will release a preliminary report with one or more options for the electoral structure on Wednesday 25 October.

You can make a response submission from this date.

Wednesday 15 November

Response submissions

The panel must receive your submission by 5 pm on Wednesday 15 November.

The panel will not accept late submissions.

Wednesday 22 November

Public hearing

The panel will hold an online public hearing if anyone asks to speak about their response submission at 2 pm Wednesday 22 November.

The public hearing will not be held if no one asks to speak.

Wednesday 20 December

Final report

The panel will submit a final report to the Minister for Local Government including its advice for the electoral structure on Wednesday 20 December.

The minister will consider the panel's advice before recommending a change to the electoral structure. Any change is expected to apply at the next local council general election.

Submission guide

You can download a submission guide from the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au

How to make a submission

 On the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au

@ By email to:

MorningtonPeninsula.ERAPSubmissions@vec.vic.gov.au

 By post to:

Electoral representation advisory panel
c/o Victorian Electoral Commission
Level 11, 530 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Submissions must include your:

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

Your submission will be published on the VEC website, including your name and suburb or town but not your full address or contact details. See the submission guide or VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au/privacy for privacy information.

One vote, one value

The 'one vote, one value' democratic principle is enshrined in the *Local Government Act 2020*. This means that every person's vote counts equally.

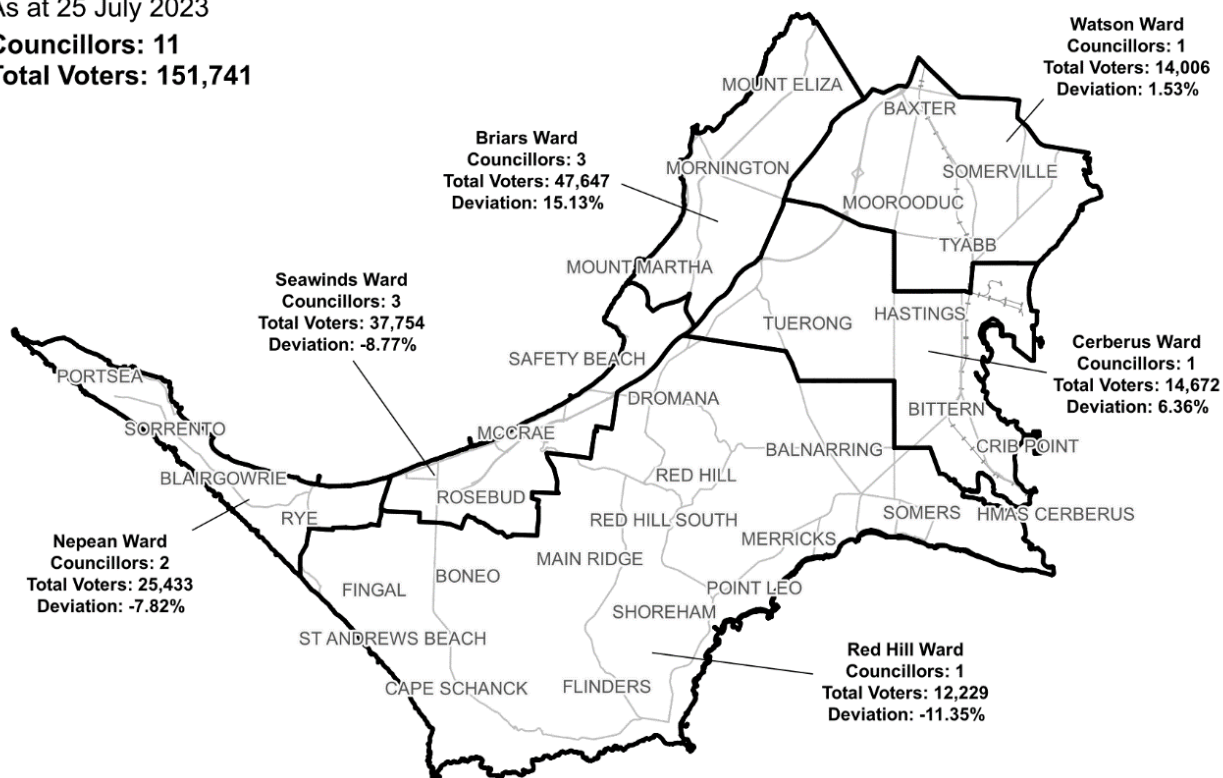
When a local council area is subdivided into wards, the number of voters each councillor represents in each ward must be plus-or-minus 10% of the of the average number of voters per councillor for all the wards.

The map below includes the current number of voters in each ward and the ward's current deviation from the average. The panel will consider likely population and voter changes to ensure the structure remains equitable.

If you make a submission online, you can use a mapping tool to build your preferred electoral structure. The tool uses current voter numbers to tell you the deviations of the wards you make. This will help you propose a structure that meets the requirements of the Act.

Current electoral structure

**Voter Numbers by
Current Boundaries**
As at 25 July 2023
Councillors: 11
Total Voters: 151,741



Ward	Councillors	Voters	Deviation
Briars Ward	3	47,647	15.13%
Cerberus Ward	1	14,672	6.36%
Nepean Ward	2	25,433	-7.82%
Red Hill Ward	1	12,229	-11.35%
Seawinds Ward	3	37,754	-8.77%
Watson Ward	1	14,006	1.53%

Statistics

Area (km²) 727

Voters

Voter density (per square km)

209

Average voters per councillor

13,794

Population

Current population

168,948

Forecast population growth

1.1% p.a.

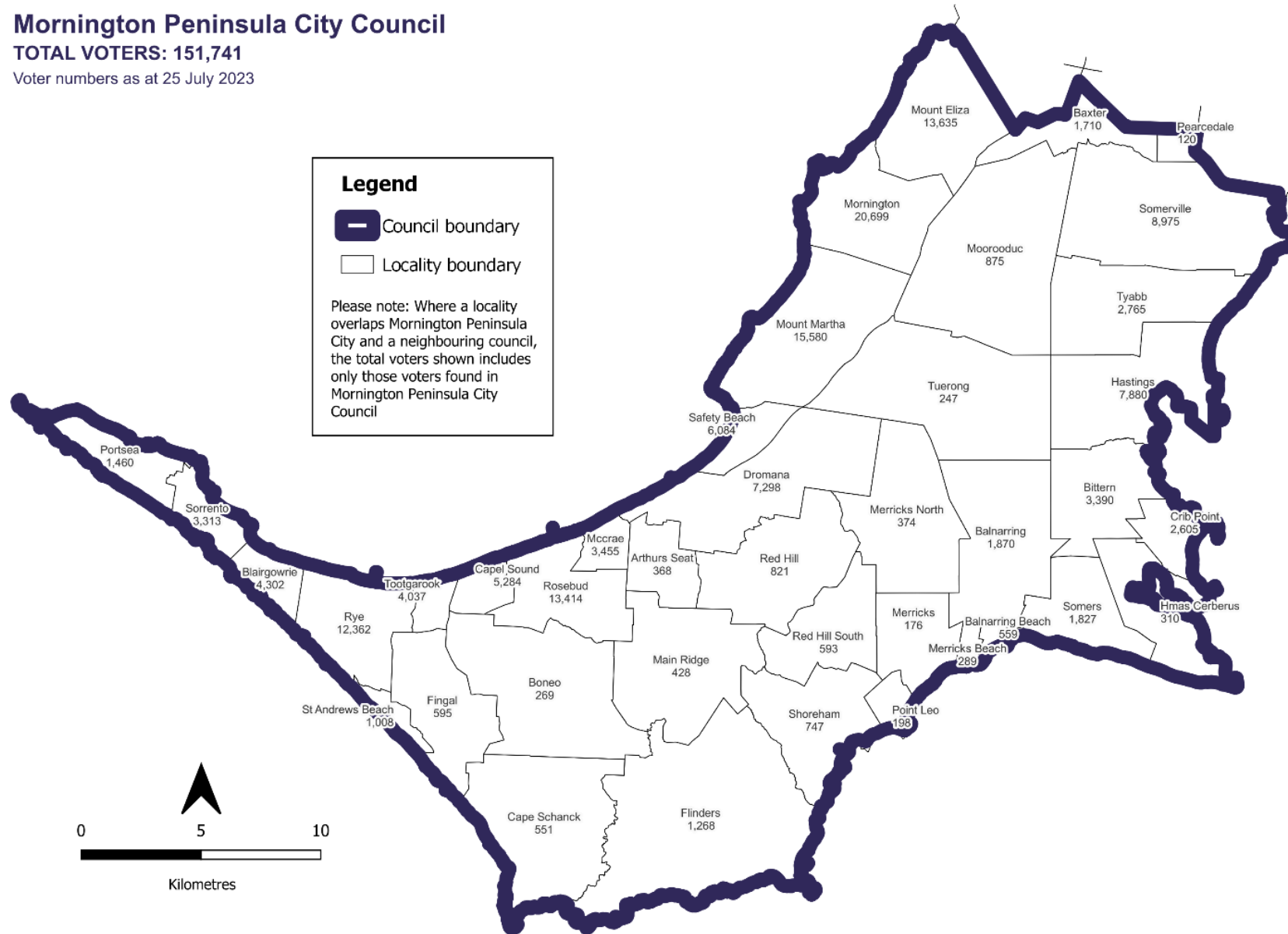
More Census statistics available at abs.gov.au

Voter numbers by locality (map)

Mornington Peninsula City Council

TOTAL VOTERS: 151,741

Voter numbers as at 25 July 2023



Voter numbers by locality (table)

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council voter numbers at 25 July 2023

Locality	Voters
Arthurs Seat	368
Balnarring	1,870
Balnarring Beach	559
Baxter	1,710
Bittern	3,390
Blairgowrie	4,302
Boneo	269
Cape Schanck	551
Capel Sound	5,284
Crib Point	2,605
Dromana	7,298
Fingal	595
Flinders	1,268
Hastings	7,880
HMAS Cerberus	310
Langwarrin South	0
Main Ridge	428
McCrae	3,455
Merricks	176
Merricks Beach	289
Merricks North	374
Moorooduc	875

Locality	Voters
Mornington	20,699
Mount Eliza	13,635
Mount Martha	15,580
Pearcedale	120
Point Leo	198
Portsea	1,460
Red Hill	821
Red Hill South	593
Rosebud	13,414
Rye	12,362
Safety Beach	6084
Shoreham	747
Somers	1,827
Somerville	8,975
Sorrento	3,313
St Andrews Beach	1,008
Tootgarook	4,037
Tuerong	247
Tyabb	2,765