

Local council electoral structure review

Preliminary Report

Latrobe City Council

July 2023

Acknowledgement of Country

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

Document history and version control

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Executive summary

An independent electoral structure review panel appointed by the Minister for Local Government is reviewing the electoral structure of Latrobe City Council.

The purpose of the review is to advise the Minister on the appropriate number of councillors and electoral structure, including ward names, for the council.

Under Victoria's *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), Latrobe City Council must now have a single-councillor ward electoral structure.

The panel is looking at:

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

This report outlines the preliminary models the panel is presenting for public consultation, for the proposed new electoral structure of Latrobe City Council to meet the requirements of the Act.

More information about the background to the review is available on [page 6](#).

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.

More information on the way the panel decided on the models is available on [page 7](#).

Electoral structure models

After considering research and the requirements of the Act, the panel is presenting the following electoral structure models for public consultation:

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

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

Next steps

The panel is now seeking feedback on the preliminary electoral structure models. You can make a response submission to the preliminary models until 5 pm Wednesday 2 August. If any response submitters wish to speak at a public hearing, the panel will hold an online public hearing on Tuesday 8 August. Following this, the panel will present its final recommendation to the Minister on Wednesday 6 September 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 and provide advice on the electoral structures of 39 local councils, under section 16 of the Act. If the Minister accepts the electoral structure recommended by the panel, any changes will take effect at the October 2024 local council elections.

The Act introduced several changes to local government representation, including the types of electoral structures local councils may have. All metropolitan, interface and regional city councils (including Latrobe City Council) must now have single-councillor ward electoral structures.

For Latrobe City Council, the electoral representation advisory panel is examining:

- the number of councillors and wards
- where the ward boundaries should be
- the name of each ward.

The Act requires electoral structures to provide fair and equitable representation and facilitate good governance. Each ward must have an approximately equal number of voters per councillor (within +/-10% of the average). While conducting the review, the panel also notes the role of a councillor as specified under section 28 of the Act.

The electoral representation advisory panel

The panel conducting the electoral structure review of Latrobe City Council has 3 members:

- Ms Julie Eisenbise (Chairperson)
- Mr Tim Presnell
- Acting Electoral Commissioner Ms Dana Fleming.

The purpose of the review is to advise the Minister on the appropriate number of councillors and electoral structure, including ward names, for the council. The panel is independent of councils and the Victorian 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

On behalf of the panel, the VEC has conducted a public information and awareness program to inform the public about the Latrobe City Council electoral structure review. This has included:

- printed public notices in state-wide newspapers

- public information sessions to outline the review process and respond to questions from the community
- media releases to announce the start of the review
- information on social media channels
- updated website content on vec.vic.gov.au, including:
 - current information on the review process
 - submission guide and fact sheets for each council under review with background information.

The VEC will continue to promote the review on behalf of the panel during the response submission stage via media releases, the VEC’s social media channels and the VEC website.

Public consultation

The panel now invites input to the electoral structure review of Latrobe City Council via:

- response submissions to this preliminary report
- an online public hearing for anyone who makes a response submission to speak to the panel and expand on their submission.

Public submissions are an important part of the review process and are considered alongside other factors addressed during the review. These are outlined below.

Developing recommendations

The electoral structure models the panel is presenting 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 data
- rates or patterns of population and voter change over time, and relevant forecasts of growth or decline based on forecast information provided by .id (informed decisions, a company specialising in demographics and forecasting).

Deciding on the number of councillors

The Act allows local councils to have between 5 and 12 councillors, but neither the Act nor the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020 specify how the number of councillors is to be determined. 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 appropriate number of councillors for Latrobe City Council, the panel considered the following criteria:

- the population and number of voters in the council area, compared to other councils with a similar population size and number of voters in the same category (for example, other comparable metropolitan, interface or regional city councils)
- patterns of population change and voter growth or decline in the council area over time

- the current and past numbers of councillors
- the representation needs of the communities of interest in the council area.

The panel's final recommendation will also consider any matters raised in public response submissions not already listed above.

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

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

Deciding the electoral structure

Under the Act, regional city, metropolitan and interface councils must now have single-councillor ward electoral structures.

When developing single-councillor ward models for Latrobe City Council, the panel considered these criteria:

- whether the structure would comply with section 15(2) of the Act (see below), and for how long it would likely comply
- the appropriate number of councillors, as outlined above
- whether meaningful and effective ward boundaries could be established and whether these would be easily identifiable to local communities
- the representation of communities of interest
- the voter distribution and physical features of the area, and the impact these may have on the shape and size of wards
- past elections for the council, including:
 - numbers of candidates nominating
 - incidences of uncontested elections
 - rates of informal voting.

The panel's final recommendation will also consider any matters raised in public response submissions not already listed above.

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

During this review, the panel aims to recommend a structure that will comply with section 15(2) at the time of the 2024 local council elections and, if possible, also comply based on voter numbers at the time the review is conducted. The panel uses forecasts of population and voter change to assess compliance at the 2024 elections with as much accuracy as possible. In some cases, population change and other factors impacting voter numbers mean it is not possible to create compliant subdivided structures based both on voter numbers that were current at the time of the review and forecast voter numbers. In these instances, the panel prioritises compliance at the 2024 local government elections to ensure each vote will have approximately equal value at the 2024 election.

One of the factors that may impact compliance with section 15(2) is the number of current and forecast voters with ratepayer-based voting entitlements, also known as council-enrolled electors. Voters' rolls include both state-enrolled electors (the majority of the roll) and a smaller number of council-enrolled electors. The Act introduced changes to ratepayer-based entitlement categories, which come into full effect at the 2024 local council elections. The panel will take this change to the makeup of voters' rolls, and therefore compliance with section 15(2) of the Act, into consideration during this review.

Deciding on ward names

The panel has taken the following approach to naming wards.

1. Retaining existing ward names if these are still relevant to the area covered by the ward.
2. When a new name is required, the panel bases this on features such as:
 - places (registered under the *Geographic Place Names Act 1998*) in the ward
 - compass directions
 - native flora or fauna.

Use of Aboriginal language

The panel recognises that there should first be meaningful consultation with local Aboriginal communities and groups before a ward is named using Aboriginal language. Meaningful consultation is a significant process that the panel is not able to undertake within the timeframes of the current review program.

The panel also recognises that many of the place names in current use across Victoria are based on Aboriginal language. As such, the panel may put forward new ward names using Aboriginal language if:

- it is the name of a place within a ward
- it is currently in common use

and

- the name is registered under the *Geographic Place Names Act 1998*.

Unregistered names using Aboriginal language have not been put forward by the panel as new ward names. While the panel supports the adoption of names based on Aboriginal language, this requires appropriate consultation.

Accordingly, for the panel to consider an Aboriginal language ward name that is suggested in a public submission to the review, the name submitted needs to comply with the above guidelines.

About Latrobe City Council

Profile

Latrobe City Council is located about 150 km east of Melbourne and is one of Victoria's major regional population and commercial centres. It shares its borders with Baw Baw Shire to the west, Wellington Shire to the east, and South Gippsland Shire to the south-west.

The Traditional Custodians of the land in Latrobe City Council are the Braiakaulung people.

Landscape

Latrobe City Council encompasses a total land area of 1,426 km², with the landscape ranging from the agricultural floodplains of the La Trobe River in the north, to the temperate rainforests of the Strzelecki Ranges in the south. Approximately 30% of the land covered by the council is used for plantation forests and a further 37% for livestock grazing and production (DAFF 2023).

The city is a major source of Victoria's electricity production and has one of the largest brown coal reserves in the world. It supports a large forestry industry and other businesses including Lion Dairy in Morwell and Federation University.

The population of Latrobe City Council at the 2021 Census was 77,318 (ABS 2022a), with over two-thirds residing in the 3 large urban centres of Traralgon, Morwell, and Moe. Tyers Park, Morwell National Park, and Traralgon South Flora and Fauna Reserve are some of the important geographical features in the city. The Big Cigar is considered a 'must see' for visitors to the town of Churchill. The city's central location makes it a popular base to explore Gippsland's natural and heritage attractions, including Tarra-Bulga and Baw Baw national parks, and the historic mining town of Walhalla.

The Princes Freeway (M1) is the main east–west transport corridor, connecting communities across the Latrobe City Council area with Melbourne, as well as Sale, Bairnsdale, and Orbost. The Strzelecki Highway runs south from Morwell to Inverloch and Wonthaggi, and there is an hourly V/Line train service between Traralgon and Melbourne.

Community

At the 2021 Census, Latrobe City Council's population had increased by 5.5% since 2016 (ABS 2022a, 2016). The population is expected to grow by 1.3% annually to about 81,000 by 2026. Much of this growth will occur in the towns of Traralgon, Morwell, Moe, and Newborough.

Residents of the city had a median age of 42 years in 2021 – a slight increase on 2016, when it was 41 (ABS 2022a, 2016). The median age varies across the major towns of the city – in Churchill it was 38 years in 2021, while in Moe it was 46 years.

In 2021, people born in Australia made up 79.4% of the population of the council area, and 86% spoke only English at home. These figures broadly reflected regional Victoria overall (81% and 86.4% respectively) (ABS 2022a, 2022b). Residents who identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander made up 2.1% of the city's population in 2021, also close to regional Victoria overall at 2% (ABS 2022a, 2022b).

The unemployment rate in the council area was 6.6% in 2021, which was much higher than the overall rate for regional Victoria of 4.1%. Participation in the labour force was 54.1% of the working-age population in 2021, with just over half working full time. Health care and social assistance (17%), retail (10.2%), and construction (9.9%) were the main industries of employment, with almost a third of all residents employed as technicians, trades workers, or professionals.

Home ownership was widespread in 2021, with 71.1% of residents owning a house outright or with a mortgage. About 25% of residents rented, which was slightly above the regional Victorian overall rate of 23.6% (ABS 2022a, 2022b).

The median weekly household income in Latrobe City Council was \$1,260 in 2021, compared to \$1,386 for regional Victoria overall (ABS 2022a, 2022b).

Current number of councillors and electoral structure

Latrobe City Council is currently divided into 4 wards with a total of 9 councillors:

- one ward with 4 councillors (East)
- 2 wards with 2 councillors each (Central and West wards)
- one single-councillor ward (South).

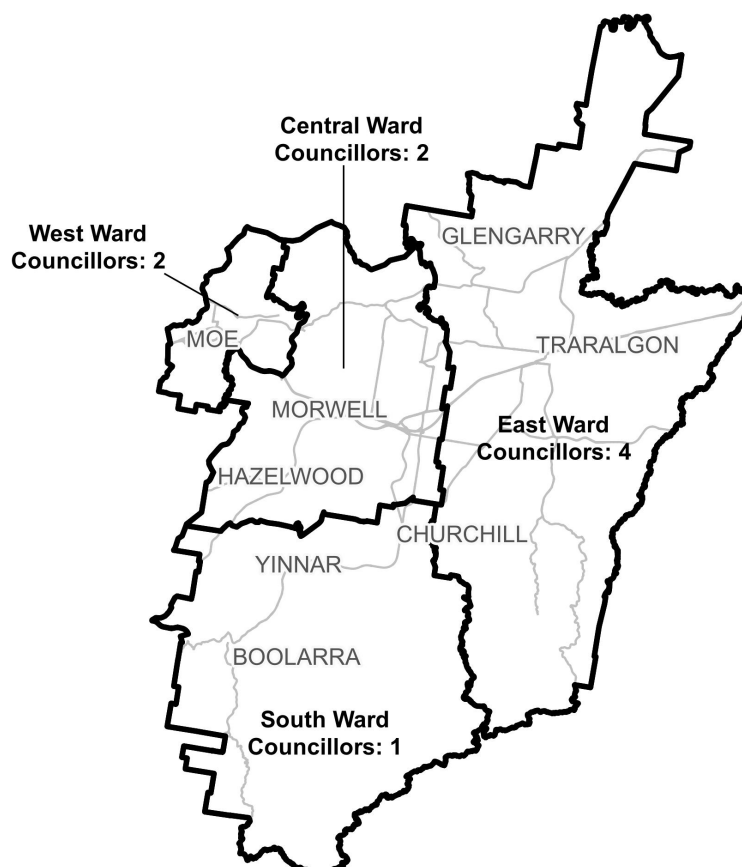


Figure 1: Diagram of current electoral structure of Latrobe City Council.

There are an estimated 59,099 voters in Latrobe City Council, with an estimated ratio of 6,566 voters per councillor.

Visit the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au for more information on Latrobe City Council.

Last electoral structure review

The VEC conducted an electoral representation review of Latrobe City Council in 2012. This review was carried out under the *Local Government Act 1989* (Vic), which was replaced by the *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic).

After conducting the review, the VEC recommended that Latrobe City Council adopt a structure of 9 councillors elected from 4 wards (one ward with 4 councillors, 2 wards with 2 councillors each, and a single-councillor ward).

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

Preliminary findings and models

Number of councillors

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

The panel considered the characteristics of Latrobe City Council in relation to similar regional city councils, including its population, the number and distribution of voters, and the size and geography of the council.

Similar regional city councils to Latrobe City 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
Greater Geelong City*	1,248	204,092	271,057	212,369	11	19,306
Greater Bendigo City*	3,000	91,892	121,470	93,852	9	10,428
Ballarat City*	739	84,694	113,763	87,340	9	9,704
Latrobe City	1,426	58,170	77,318	59,099	9	6,566
Greater Shepparton City*	2,422	46,242	68,409	46,959	9	5,217
Mildura Rural City*	22,082	40,720	56,972	42,932	9	4,770
Wodonga City*	433	32,430	43,253	33,461	7	4,780
Warrnambool City*	121	27,279	35,406	27,731	7	3,961

*These local councils are undergoing an electoral structure review in 2023–24.

Maintaining 9 councillors

Latrobe City Council currently has an estimated 59,099 voters represented by 9 councillors. The council area covers 1,426 km². Other regional city councils with a similar number of voters usually also have 9 councillors. Forecasts indicate there will be modest population growth in a few parts of the city. The panel considered it appropriate for the total number of councillors for Latrobe City Council to remain at 9, while acknowledging this number may need to increase in the future.

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 Latrobe City Council, the appropriateness of ward boundaries and which models best offered fair and equitable representation and consequently facilitated good governance.

In developing the preliminary models presented in this report, the panel considered a range of models. The strongest 2 models have been put forward for further public comment.

The panel proposes 2 models for the consideration of the Latrobe City Council community:

- a subdivided electoral structure of 9 single-councillor wards (Model 1)
- a subdivided electoral structure of 9 single-councillor wards, with different ward boundaries to Model 1 (Model 2)

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

A single-councillor ward structure with 9 councillors (Model 1)

Under this model, Latrobe City Council would adopt a 9-ward structure. Each ward would be represented by one councillor, in line with the requirements of the Act.

The panel took a minimal-change approach in developing Model 1 by using the boundaries of the current electoral structure as much as possible. It divided each of the current multi-councillor wards into the equivalent number of single-councillor wards. The panel considered various options for dividing the major towns of Traralgon, Morwell, and Moe.

The panel created the proposed Moe and Newborough wards in the north-west of the city, by dividing the current West Ward reasonably equally, using Moe-Walhalla Road, Moore and Haigh streets, and Narracan Creek.

Most of Newborough is captured in the proposed Newborough Ward, which also includes a small residential section of Moe north of Haigh Street and east of Moore Street.

The proposed Yallourn and Morwell River wards would be created by dividing the current Central Ward. The boundary dividing the 2 wards cuts through Morwell, using the Princes Freeway, Strzelecki Highway, and several minor streets. To maintain the permitted +/- 10% tolerance through to the 2024 local council elections, the eastern boundary of the Morwell River Ward takes in a larger part of the Hazelwood North locality, running from Old Melbourne Road in the north to Boldings Road in the south, following property boundaries, minor roads, Plough Creek and Hazelwood Road.

The current 4-councillor East Ward (629 km²) has been divided into 4 separate wards – Boola Boola, Wades Creek, Jeeralang and Loy Yang wards. The 2 southern wards (Jeeralang and Loy Yang) are vertical in orientation and cover an area of around 170 km² and 230 km² respectively, taking in large sections of rural and uninhabited land to the south. Boola Boola Ward covers the rural lands and scattered towns north of the La Trobe River. Wades Creek Ward is smaller in area, capturing a share of Traralgon and part of Maryvale to the west.

Each of these proposed wards include a section of Traralgon, sharing its residential communities and town centre. Loy Yang Ward takes in most of Traralgon's industrial and commercial areas. The boundary dividing the residential and commercial areas of Traralgon runs east–west along Old Melbourne Highway, Grey and Davidson streets and the Princes Highway. The north–south ward boundary uses Traralgon Creek, continuing south along Traralgon Creek Road and Little Traralgon Creek, to separate the Jeeralang and Loy Yang wards. In the north it follows Traralgon Creek and the La Trobe River to separate the Boola Boola and Wades Creek wards.

The proposed Budgeree Ward has the same boundaries and area (442 km²) as the current single-councillor South Ward.

Under Model 1, the 5 wards covering the western half of the city (Moe, Newborough, Yallourn, Morwell River, and Budgeree) reflect the current 3 wards (Central, West, and South). Dividing the large East Ward would see 4 single-councillor wards created (Boola Boola, Wades Creek, Loy Yang, and Jeeralang), with boundaries converging at a central point in Traralgon. The panel noted that, while the vertical structure of the 4 wards in the eastern half of the city was appealing, it would mean creating 3 large wards (each up to 230 km²) and one small ward of 21 km². This could create a greater workload for the councillors elected to represent the large wards.

The panel is interested to receive feedback from the community on Model 1's division of Traralgon.

A single-councillor ward structure with 9 councillors (alternative version) (Model 2)

Under this model, Latrobe City Council would adopt a 9-ward structure. Each ward would be represented by one councillor, in line with the requirements of the Act.

The panel took the same approach to developing Model 2 as it did to Model 1. Five of the wards in this model – Moe, Newborough, Yallourn, Morwell River, and Budgeree – are the same as in Model 1. However, Model 2 divides the current East Ward into 4 wards in a significantly different way to Model 1. In Model 2, the proposed wards run primarily in a horizontal rather than vertical direction. This creates 4 wards ranging in area from 61 km² to 245 km², with variations to the boundaries dividing Traralgon.

In Model 2, the proposed wards of Boola Boola (190 km²), Wades Creek (61 km²), Sheepwash Creek (125 km²), and Traralgon Creek (245 km²) split the current East Ward (629 km²) more evenly than in Model 1. The proposed boundaries also capture sections of Traralgon differently, with the town's commercial and industrial areas primarily in the northern Boola Boola Ward, instead of the southern Loy Yang Ward in Model 1.

The boundary dividing Traralgon in an east–west direction follows Traralgon West Road, Grey Street, and the train line, while the north–south boundary runs along Traralgon Creek, Lafayette Street, and Hyde Park Road.

Model 2's Boola Boola Ward includes a small part of Traralgon, as well as Glengarry, Glengarry West, Glengarry North, Traralgon East, Toongabbie, and Flynn. It is separated from the 2 adjacent wards via Rintoul Creek in the north, a small section of the La Trobe River and Traralgon Creek in the south, and the train line to the east.

The proposed Wades Creek Ward includes Tyers and a large residential part of Traralgon north-west of the town centre. The ward includes the A P M Aeration Pond, Tyers Park, and part of the Boola Boola State Forest. The ward is separated from the Traralgon Creek Ward in the south via Traralgon West Road and Grey Street.

The proposed Traralgon Creek Ward covers the second-largest area in Model 2 (245 km²). It extends from a residential zone in the north, south past the Loy Yang 'A' Power Station, through the Jeeralang Traralgon Plantation and the towns of Koornalla and Mount Tassie, to the city's southern boundary.

The Sheepwash Creek and Traralgon Creek wards are divided along a boundary that runs from Grey Street in Traralgon along Lafayette Street, Hyde Park Road, and Traralgon Creek, and follows Callignee South and Powers roads to the city boundary at Flynn's Creek crossing.

The proposed Budgereew Ward in Model 2 is the same as in Model 1.

Summary

Introducing single-councillor wards represents a large electoral change for Latrobe City Council. Dividing communities into appropriate wards while ensuring they comply with the +/-10% requirement and accounting for population growth can be challenging.

Both models presented in this report split Morwell, Moe, and Newborough, which the panel noted is not ideal. However, it was necessary to divide these towns and communities to meet the requirements of the Act that all wards comply with the +/-10% requirement at the 2024 local council election.

The 4-way split of the current East Ward in Model 2 may be preferable for the residents and communities in the proposed 4 wards.

The panel now welcomes public feedback on both models.

Models for public feedback

The panel considers all models outlined below to be the single-councillor ward electoral structures with the best potential to offer fair and equitable representation for voters in Latrobe City Council and consequently facilitate good governance. Please see [Appendix 1](#) for detailed maps of these models.

Model 1

Latrobe City Council has 9 councillors and is divided into 9 wards with one councillor per ward.

Ward names: Boola Boola Ward, Budgerie Ward, Jeeralang Ward, Loy Yang Ward, Moe Ward, Morwell River Ward, Newborough Ward, Wades Creek Ward and Yallourn Ward.

Model 2

Latrobe City Council has 9 councillors and is divided into 9 wards with one councillor per ward.

Ward names: Boola Boola Ward, Budgerie Ward, Moe Ward, Morwell River Ward, Newborough Ward, Sheepwash Creek Ward, Traralgon Ward, Wades Creek Ward and Yallourn Ward.

Ward names

The panel has suggested ward names to identify the wards in each model and invites comments from the community on these names as part of submissions responding to the preliminary report. The basis of the ward name recommendations for each model are described below.

Model 1

The Boola Boola, Budgerie, Jeeralang, Loy Yang, Moe, Morwell River, Newborough, Wades Creek, and Yallourn ward names are new and are based on natural features or localities found within each ward.

Model 2

The Boola Boola, Budgerie, Moe, Morwell River, Newborough, Sheepwash Creek, Traralgon, Wades Creek, and Yallourn ward names are new and are based on natural features or localities found within each ward.




The panel will review ward name suggestions received during the response submission stage when forming the final advice to the Minister for Local Government on the electoral structure of the council. Suggested ward names should comply with the panel's approach to naming wards (see [Deciding on ward names](#) and [Use of Aboriginal language](#)). All ward name suggestions received during the response submission stage will be provided to the Minister for consideration at the conclusion of the electoral structure review.

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>Latrobe.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 2 August 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.

To protect the integrity and transparency of the review process, 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.

On behalf of the panel, 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).

Please note that any submission content that is potentially defamatory, offensive, obscene or that includes the personal information of people or organisations who are not a party to the submission may also be redacted before publication.

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: 2 pm

Date: Tuesday 8 August 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 to speak 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 prepare 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 provided to the Minister on Wednesday 6 September 2023. The Minister will consider the final reports, including any determination to make the reports publicly available. Any change to the electoral structure of Latrobe City Council following on from this review is expected to apply at the October 2024 local council elections. Under the Act, the final council electoral structure will be set by an Order in Council published in the Victoria Government Gazette.

References

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REMPPLAN (2022) [Latrobe City Economy, Jobs and Business Insights](#), REMPLAN website, accessed 18 May 2023.

Appendix 1: Model maps

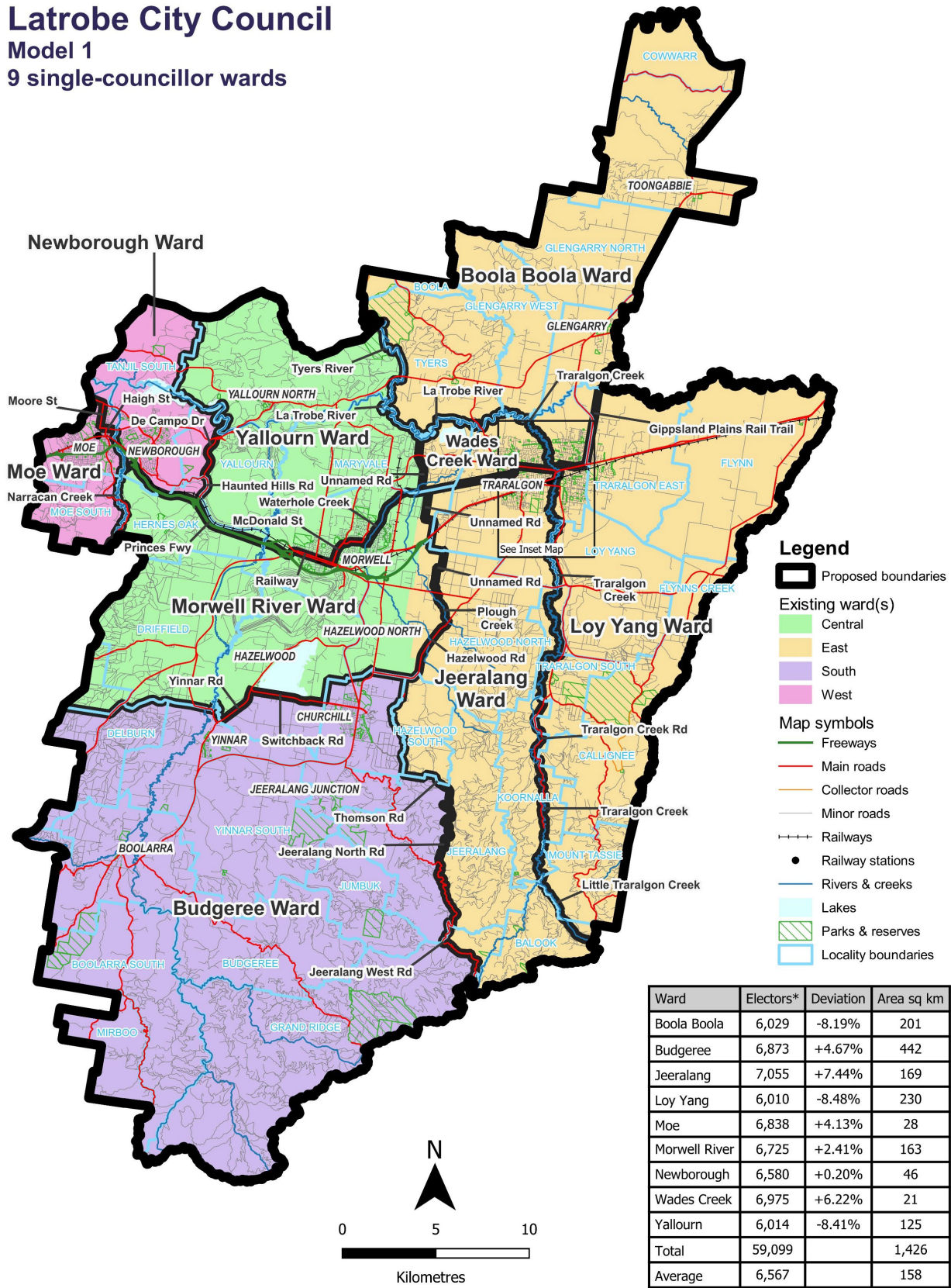
The following maps are included in this report:

Map	Page
Model 1 – a single-councillor ward structure with 9 councillors – 9 wards with one councillor per ward.	23
Model 2 – a single-councillor ward structure with 9 councillors – 9 wards with one councillor per ward (with boundaries different to Model 1).	25

Latrobe City Council

Model 1

9 single-councillor wards



*Elector numbers as at 30 March 2023

Map prepared by:

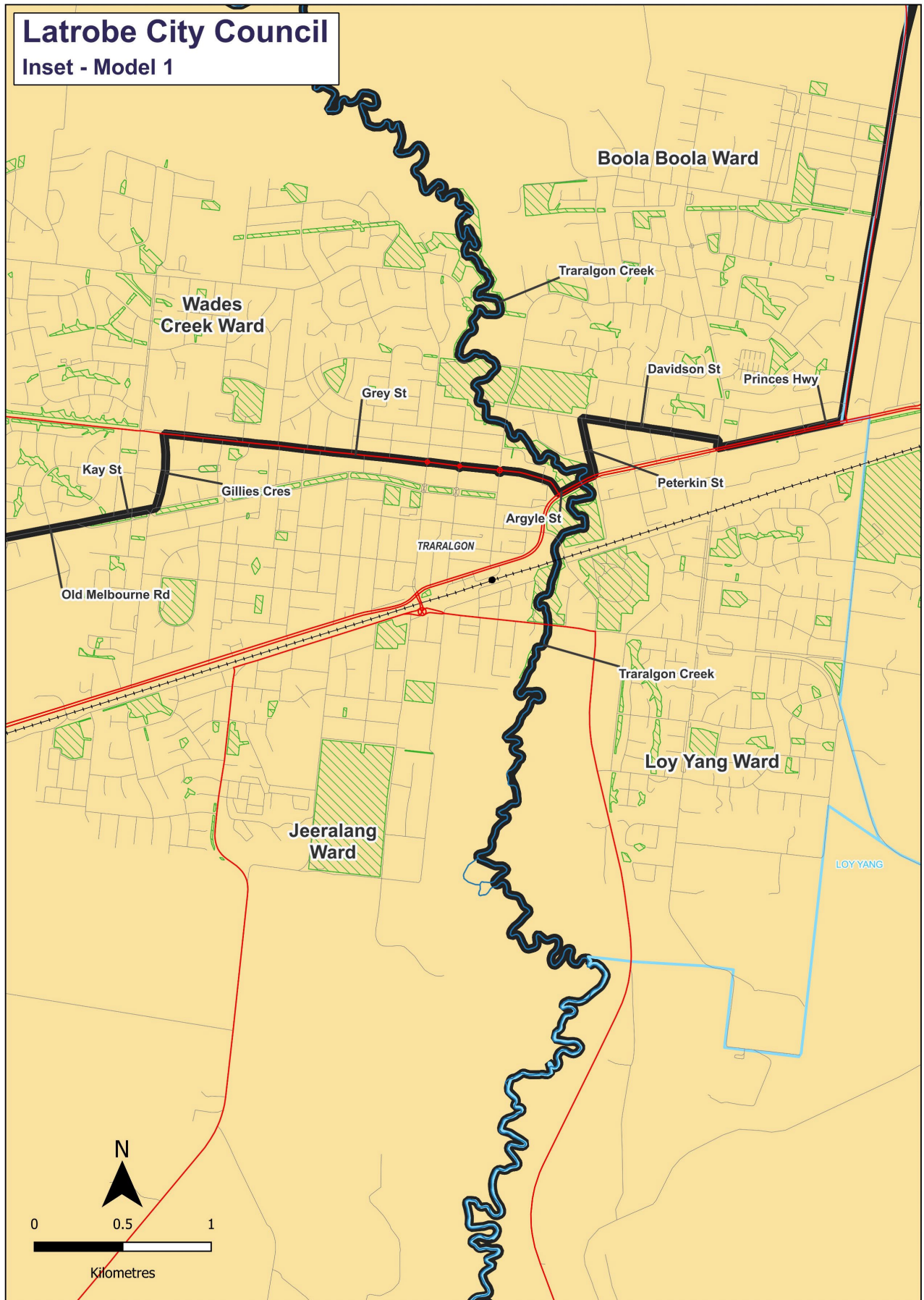


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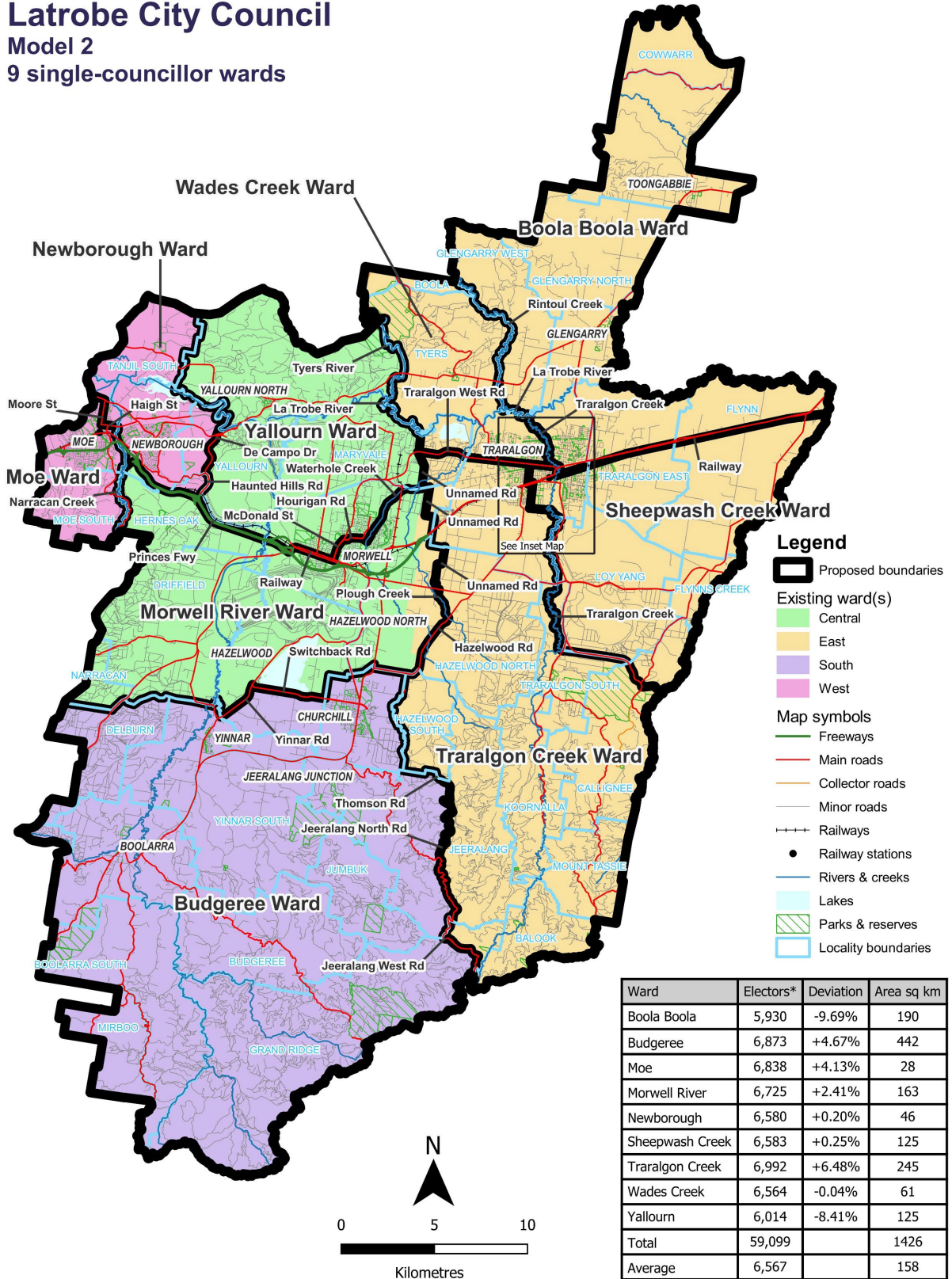
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Latrobe City Council

Model 2

9 single-councillor wards



*Elector numbers as at 30 March 2023

Map prepared by:

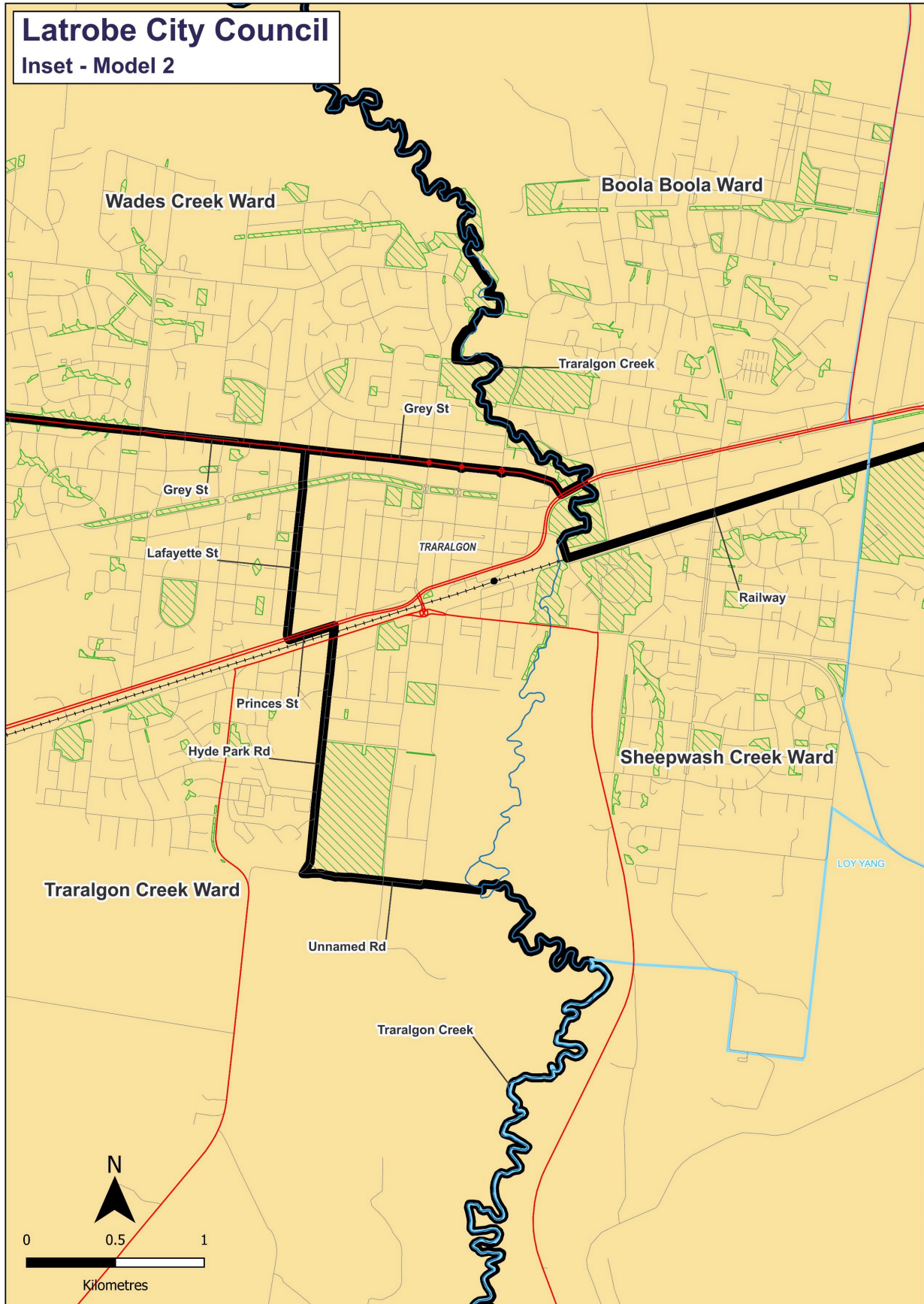


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