

Local council electoral structure review

Preliminary Report

Hobsons Bay City Council

October 2023

Acknowledgement of Country

The electoral representation advisory panel acknowledges the Bunurong 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.

Report approval

Version	Date approved	Approved by
1	11 October 2023	Ms Julie Eisenbise
1	11 October 2023	Mr Tim Presnell
1	10 October 2023	Ms Dana Fleming

Version approval

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Executive summary

An electoral structure review panel appointed by the Minister for Local Government is reviewing the electoral structure of Hobsons Bay 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), Hobsons Bay 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 Hobsons Bay 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 7 councillors – 7 wards with one councillor per ward.
- Model 2: a subdivided electoral structure with a total of 7 councillors – 7 wards with one councillor per ward, with different ward boundaries to Model 1.
- Model 3: a subdivided electoral structure with a total of 7 councillors – 7 wards with one councillor per ward, with different ward boundaries to models 1 and 2.

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 8 November 2023. If any response submitters wish to speak at a public hearing, the panel will hold an online

public hearing on Wednesday 15 November. Following this, the panel will present its final recommendation to the Minister on Wednesday 13 December 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 are expected to 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 Hobsons Bay City Council) must now have single-councillor ward electoral structures.

For Hobsons Bay City Council, the 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 Hobsons Bay City Council has 3 members:

- Ms Julie Eisenbise (Chairperson)
- Mr Tim Presnell
- Deputy 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 VEC.

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 nominated representative) must be a member of each panel.

Public engagement

Public information program

On behalf of the panel, the VEC conducts a public information and awareness program to inform the public about the Hobsons Bay City Council electoral structure review. This includes:

- printed public notices in state-wide newspapers
- public information sessions to outline the review process and respond to questions from the community
- a media release to announce the start of the review
- information on social media channels
- website content on vec.vic.gov.au, including:
 - current information on the review process
 - fact sheets for each council under review and a submission guide.

Hobsons Bay City Council was also offered and took up 2 optional methods to promote the reviews:

- social media advertisements targeted at the council area
- notifying voters in the council area subscribed to the VEC's VoterAlert service about the start of the review and release of the preliminary report.

Public consultation

The panel now invites input to the electoral structure review of Hobsons Bay 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 to determine the appropriate number of councillors. 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 Hobsons Bay 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 Hobsons Bay 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 takes the following approach to naming wards:

1. The panel retains 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 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 Hobsons Bay City Council

Profile

Hobsons Bay City Council is located at the northern end of Port Phillip Bay, between 7 and 20 km south-west of central Melbourne. Covering an area of 65 km², it includes the suburbs of Williamstown, Newport and Spotswood in the east, Williamstown North, South Kingsville, Brooklyn, Altona North and Seaholme in the central area and Laverton, Altona Meadows and Seabrook in the west. It is bordered to the west and south-west by Wyndham City Council, to the north by Brimbank and Maribyrnong City Councils, and across the Yarra River to the east by Melbourne City Council.

The Traditional Custodians of the land in the Hobsons Bay City Council area are the Bunurong people.

Landscape

To the north and west, Hobsons Bay City Council is bordered by the West Gate Freeway and Princes Freeway and traversed east-west by the national freight rail line. Public transport servicing the council area includes two further train lines, in the east to Williamstown and east-west across its length to Werribee.

Hobsons Bay City Council has a wide range of land uses including diverse residential neighbourhoods, a network of activity centres and large areas zoned for industrial use (DTP 2023). This includes petrochemical and petroleum refining industries that have buffers in place to manage amenity impacts and limit housing development (DTP 2023).

A defining feature of the council area is its foreshore location. With over 20 km of coastline, Hobsons Bay City Council contains significant coastal wetlands, 5 creek systems, the Yarra River estuary, remnant native grasslands and important flora and fauna habitats.

Population and community

Hobsons Bay City Council was home to 91,322 people in 2021 (ABS 2022), an increase of 7,459 over the previous decade (ABS 2011).

Its population is forecast to grow at about 1.5% (or 1,400 people) per year to be over 120,000 by 2041 (.id 2022c). The suburbs expected to have the highest rate of growth are Altona North, Spotswood and South Kingsville, where former industrial land has been rezoned for residential use. Population growth is also expected to occur near major activity centres and public transport (DTP 2023).

The proportion of the population identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander is 0.7%, the same as the Greater Melbourne average (ABS 2022).

Overall, 30.1% of the population in 2021 were born overseas compared with 35.7% for Greater Melbourne (.id 2022a). More than a quarter (27%) of people spoke a language other than English at home.

Median personal and family incomes of Hobson Bay residents in 2021 were higher than for Greater Melbourne overall (ABS 2022a, 2022b) and a greater proportion of the population had high incomes of \$2,000 or more per week (17.5% compared with 13.7%) (.id 2022a).

Home ownership rates across the council area in 2021 were similar to the average rates for Greater Melbourne, though a higher percentage were owned outright at 34.1% of dwellings compared with 29.7% (ABS 2022a, 2022b). A significantly smaller proportion of dwellings in the council area in 2021 were flats or apartments (high density) compared with the average for Greater Melbourne (.id 2022a).

Hobsons Bay City Council has more than 8,900 local businesses that employ over 40,000 people (.id 2022b). The labour force participation rate in 2021 for all residents aged 15 years and over was 63.8%, slightly lower than the average for Greater Melbourne of 64.1% (.id 2022a). The most prominent occupations of residents were professionals, managers and clerical and administrative workers.

Current number of councillors and electoral structure

Hobsons Bay City Council is currently divided into 3 wards with a total of 7 councillors:

- one ward with 3 councillors (Strand Ward)
- two wards with 2 councillors each (Cherry Lake and Wetlands Wards).

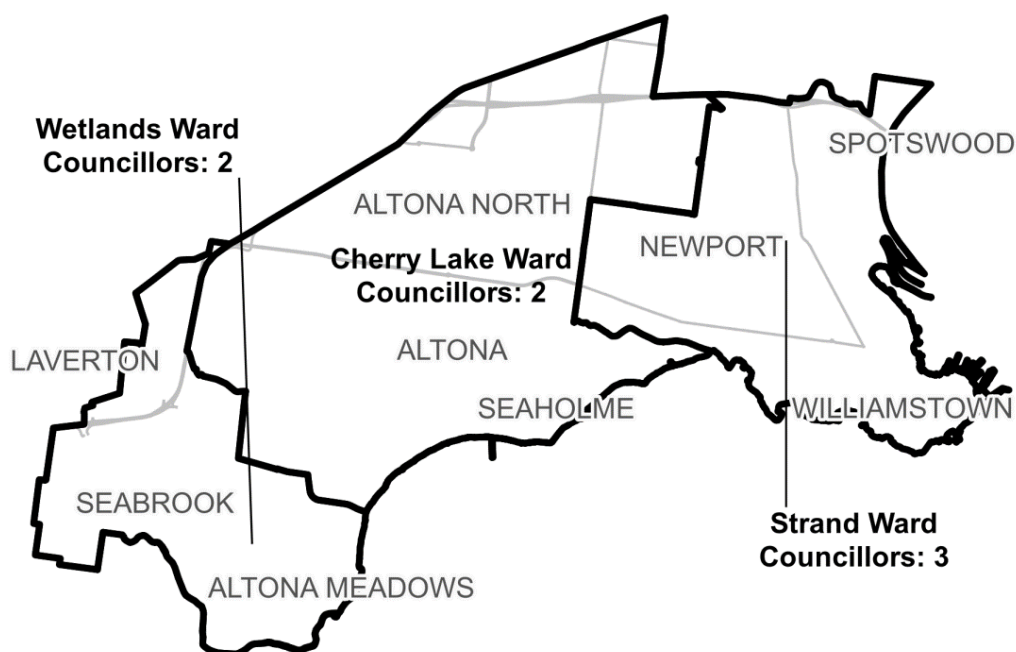


Figure 1: Diagram of current electoral structure of Hobsons Bay City Council.

There are an estimated 67,836 voters in Hobsons Bay City Council, with an estimated ratio of 9,690 voters per councillor.

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

Last electoral structure review

The VEC conducted an electoral representation review of Hobsons Bay 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 Hobsons Bay City Council adopt a structure of 7 councillors elected from 3 wards (one ward with 3 councillors and 2 wards with 2 councillors).

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 7 councillors to be an appropriate number for Hobsons Bay City Council.

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

Similar metropolitan councils to Hobsons Bay 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
Stonnington City*	26	89,600	104,703	86,821	9	9,646
Maroondah City	61	85,275	115,043	85,033	9	9,448
Yarra City*	20	78,793	90,114	83,253	9	9,250
Bayside City	37	76,020	101,306	76,043	7	10,863
Maribyrnong City*	31	63,456	85,209	69,232	7	9,890
Hobsons Bay City*	65	68,321	91,322	67,836	7	9,690

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

Maintaining 7 councillors

Hobsons Bay City Council currently has approximately 67,836 voters represented by 7 councillors and covers an area of 65 km². This is the lowest number of voters for any metropolitan council. Other metropolitan councils with a similar number of voters also have 7 councillors, such as Maribyrnong and Bayside City Councils. As forecasts indicate only modest population change is expected for the council, the panel considers it appropriate for the total number of councillors to remain unchanged.

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 Hobsons Bay City Council, the appropriateness of ward boundaries and which models offered the best potential for fair and equitable representation and consequently facilitate good governance.

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

The panel proposes 3 models for the consideration of the Hobsons Bay City Council community:

- a subdivided electoral structure of 7 single-councillor wards (Model 1)
- a subdivided electoral structure of 7 single-councillor wards, with different ward boundaries to Model 1 (Model 2)
- a subdivided electoral structure of 7 single-councillor wards, with different ward boundaries to models 1 and 2 (Model 3).

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

A single-councillor ward structure with 7 councillors (Model 1)

Under this model, Hobsons Bay City Council would adopt a 7-ward structure. Each ward would be represented by one councillor, in line with the requirements of the Act.

Model 1 uses the 3 multi-councillor wards in the current electoral structure as its basis, dividing each into an equivalent number of single-councillor wards, creating 7 new wards as follows.

The existing Cherry Creek Ward is divided into 2 wards to create the proposed Altona Ward and Altona North Ward. The exception to this is a small area of land in the existing Cherry Lake Ward (located between Victoria Street, Altona Meadows and the Altona Treatment Plant, north of Queen Street) that has been included in the proposed Laverton Ward to the west, rather than in the proposed Altona Ward to the east.

The existing Strand Ward is divided into 3 wards to create the proposed Spotswood Ward, Williamstown Ward and Williamstown North Ward.

The existing Wetlands Ward is divided into 2 wards to create the proposed Laverton Ward and Altona Meadows Ward.

As Model 1 retains nearly all of the existing ward boundaries of the current structure, it has the least change from the existing ward structure. Most importantly, the level of representation for the same geographic areas within the council area is relatively unchanged. Residents will also be familiar with the current boundaries, potentially making it easier to adapt to a new structure. Model 1 captures communities of interest and suburbs reasonably well, using clear boundaries such as creeks, railway lines and main roads where possible to create clear ward boundaries.

The potential drawbacks of Model 1 are:

- the proposed Altona North Ward crosses all of the industrial area north of the railway line between Laverton and Altona North. This creates a large ward with no clear links between voters from east to west.
- the proposed Wetlands Ward includes the locality of Seabrook and the southern portion of Altona Meadows, however there is no direct road connection between these 2 communities. The only direct physical connection is a walkway across Skeleton Creek.

A single-councillor ward structure with 7 councillors (alternative version) (Model 2)

Under this model, Hobsons Bay City Council would adopt a 7-ward structure. Each ward would be represented by one councillor, in line with the requirements of the Act.

The boundaries of Model 2 seek to keep clusters of electors together. It uses strong boundaries, such as creeks, railway lines and main roads. Cherry Creek has been used as the boundary between Altona North Ward and Laverton Ward in Model 2. This creates more evenly sized wards north of the railway line compared to Model 1 and will allow for the 2 councillors from Altona North Ward and Laverton Ward to share responsibilities for this industrial area.

By using Cherry Creek as the western boundary for Altona North Ward, other adjustments have been made to the boundaries for the surrounding wards in Model 2 so that the +/- 10% deviations for each ward can be met.

A potential drawback of Model 2 is the same as Model 1, with the inclusion of Seabrook and the southern part of Altona Meadows in the same ward, despite there being no direct road connection between these 2 communities. The only direct physical connection is a walkway across Skeleton Creek.

A single-councillor ward structure with 7 councillors (alternative version) (Model 3)

Under this model, Hobsons Bay City Council would adopt a 7-ward structure. Each ward would be represented by one councillor, in line with the requirements of the Act.

Model 3 is almost identical to Model 2, with the only change being adjustments to the boundaries between the localities of Seabrook, Laverton and Altona Meadows. In this model, Seabrook is included with Laverton within Bladin Ward, to reflect the most direct road connection from Seabrook (Point Cook Road) that goes north towards the Princes Freeway. Given the recent level crossing removal in Laverton there is now an improved connection between these localities.

This boundary adjustment has the effect of allowing more of Altona Meadows to be included together in Wetlands Ward. Given the number of electors, not all of Altona Meadows is able to be contained within one ward, and the area north of Queen Street/Central Road is included within Bladin Ward.

Summary

In summary, introducing single-councillor wards represents a large electoral structure change for Hobsons Bay City Council. Achieving models that divide communities into appropriate wards while also accounting for population growth and ensuring they comply with the +/-10% requirement can be challenging.

Hobsons Bay City Council has distinct groupings of electors that are separated by large industrial areas and waterways, as well as strong physical barriers such as main roads and railway lines that divide communities. Future growth is also expected to be unevenly spread across the council area.

Each model presented in this report seeks to achieve an outcome that provides meaningful and effective boundaries to capture communities of interest whilst also balancing the legislated voter variations across the wards.

Model 1 represents the least change from the current electoral structure. The boundaries of the existing 3 wards have been predominantly maintained, with Wetlands and Cherry Lake wards divided into 2 wards each, and Strand Ward divided into 3 wards, based on the existing number of councillors in each ward. Under Model 1, the level of representation for the same geographic area is unchanged, and wards capture communities of interest and localities reasonably well, using roads, creeks and railway lines to create strong boundaries.

Model 2 provides a variation from Model 1 by placing the industrial area north of the railway line into two wards. This will create more evenly sized wards and will allow for sharing of councillor responsibilities across this industrial area. Other boundary adjustments have been made to meet voter variations whilst still seeking to keep clusters of electors together where possible.

Model 3 is almost identical to Model 2, except for adjustments to the ward boundaries for the localities of Laverton, Altona Meadows and Seabrook. Model 3 places Seabrook in the same ward as Laverton, to reflect the direct road access from Seabrook to the north.

Each model has strengths and potential drawbacks, and will appeal to different community interests. The panel welcomes feedback and suggestions for improvement from the public through response submissions.

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 Hobsons Bay City Council and consequently facilitate good governance. Please see [Appendix 1](#) for detailed maps of these models.

Model 1

Hobsons Bay City Council has 7 councillors and is divided into 7 wards with one councillor per ward.

Ward names: Altona Ward, Altona Meadows Ward, Altona North Ward, Laverton Ward, Spotswood Ward, Williamstown Ward, Williamstown North Ward.

Model 2

Hobsons Bay City Council has 7 councillors and is divided into 7 wards with one councillor per ward.

Ward names: Altona Ward, Altona Meadows Ward, Altona North Ward, Laverton Ward, Spotswood Ward, Williamstown Ward, Williamstown North Ward.

Model 3

Hobsons Bay City Council has 7 councillors and is divided into 7 wards with one councillor per ward.

Ward names: Bladin Ward, Chambers Ward, Cherry Lake Ward, Ferguson Ward, Paisley Park Ward, Riverside Ward, Wetlands 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.

Models 1 and 2

The Altona, Altona Meadows, Altona North, Spotswood, Williamstown North and Williamstown ward names are all former names of wards for Hobsons Bay City Council used prior to 2012, and are based on localities within each ward.

The Laverton ward name is new and based on a locality within that ward.

Model 3

The Bladin ward name is new and based on the registered name of Bladin Street in that ward.

The Chambers ward name is new and based on the registered name of Chambers Road in that ward.

The Cherry Lake and Wetlands ward names are based on the existing names of 2 wards under the current electoral structure.

The Ferguson ward name is new and based on the registered names of Ferguson Street and Ferguson Street Pier within that ward.

The Paisley Park and Riverside ward names are new and based on the registered names of parks in these wards.




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>hobsonsbay.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 8 November 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: Wednesday 15 November 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 13 December 2023. The Minister will consider the final reports, including any determination to make the reports publicly available. Any change to the electoral structure of Hobsons Bay 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

ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) (2022a) [2021 Census All Persons QuickStats, Hobsons Bay \(LGA\)](#), ABS, accessed 5 September 2023

—(2022b) [2021 Census All Persons QuickStats, Greater Melbourne](#), ABS, accessed 5 September 2023

—(2011) [2011 Census All Persons QuickStats, Hobsons Bay \(LGA\)](#), ABS, accessed 5 September 2023

DTP (Department of Transport and Planning) (2023) [Hobsons Bay planning scheme](#), DTP website, accessed 5 September 2023

Electoral Act 2002 (Vic)

FPSR (First Peoples State Relations) (2023) [Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners](#), First Peoples State Relations website, accessed 5 September 2023.

Geographic Place Names Act 1998 (Vic)

.id (Informed Decisions) (2022a) [City of Hobsons Bay community profile](#), .id website, accessed 8 September 2023.

—(2022b) [Hobsons Bay City economic profile](#), .id website, accessed 8 September 2023

—(2022c) [Hobsons Bay City population forecast](#), .id website, accessed 8 September 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 – a single-councillor ward structure with 7 councillors – 7 wards with one councillor per ward.	24
Model 2 – a single-councillor ward structure with 7 councillors – 7 wards with one councillor per ward (with boundaries different to Model 1).	26
Model 3 – a single-councillor ward structure with 7 councillors – 7 wards with one councillor per ward (with boundaries different to Model 1 and Model 2).	28

Hobsons Bay City Council

Model 1

7 single-councillor wards

Legend

Proposed boundaries

Exiting ward(s)

Cherry Lake

Strand

Wetlands

Map symbols

Freeways

Main roads

Collector roads

Minor roads

Railways

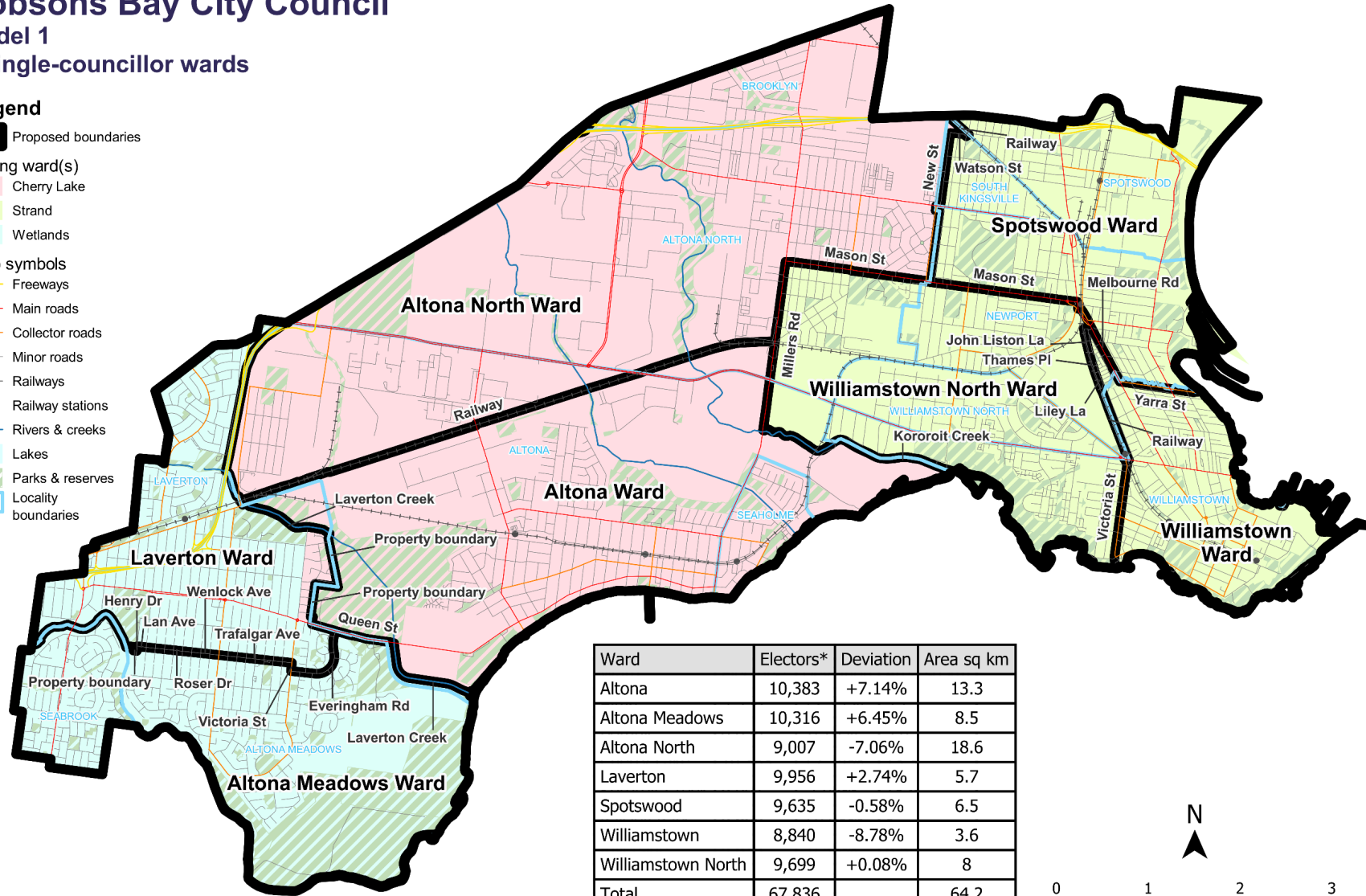
Railway stations

Rivers & creeks

Lakes

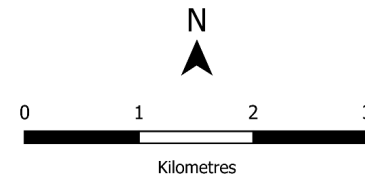
Parks & reserves

Locality boundaries



Ward	Electors*	Deviation	Area sq km
Altona	10,383	+7.14%	13.3
Altona Meadows	10,316	+6.45%	8.5
Altona North	9,007	-7.06%	18.6
Laverton	9,956	+2.74%	5.7
Spotswood	9,635	-0.58%	6.5
Williamstown	8,840	-8.78%	3.6
Williamstown North	9,699	+0.08%	8
Total	67,836		64.2
Average	9,691		9

*Elector numbers as at 25 July 2023



Data use:



Layers for alignment:
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Data for Model 1

Ward	Electors*	Deviation	Area# (square km)
Altona	10,383	+7.14%	13.3
Altona Meadows	10,316	+6.45%	8.5
Altona North	9,007	-7.06%	18.6
Laverton	9,956	+2.74%	5.7
Spotswood	9,635	-0.58%	6.5
Williamstown	8,840	-8.78%	3.6
Williamstown North	9,699	+0.08%	8
Total	67,836	n/a	64.2
Average	9,691	n/a	9

*Elector numbers as at 25 July 2023

#Ward area (square km) and total council area is measured at level of accuracy required for electoral boundaries. This may vary slightly from other data sources (for example, the ABS).

Hobsons Bay City Council

Model 2

7 single-councillor wards

Legend

Proposed boundaries

Exiting ward(s)

Cherry Lake

Strand

Wetlands

Map symbols

Freeways

Main roads

Collector roads

Minor roads

Railways

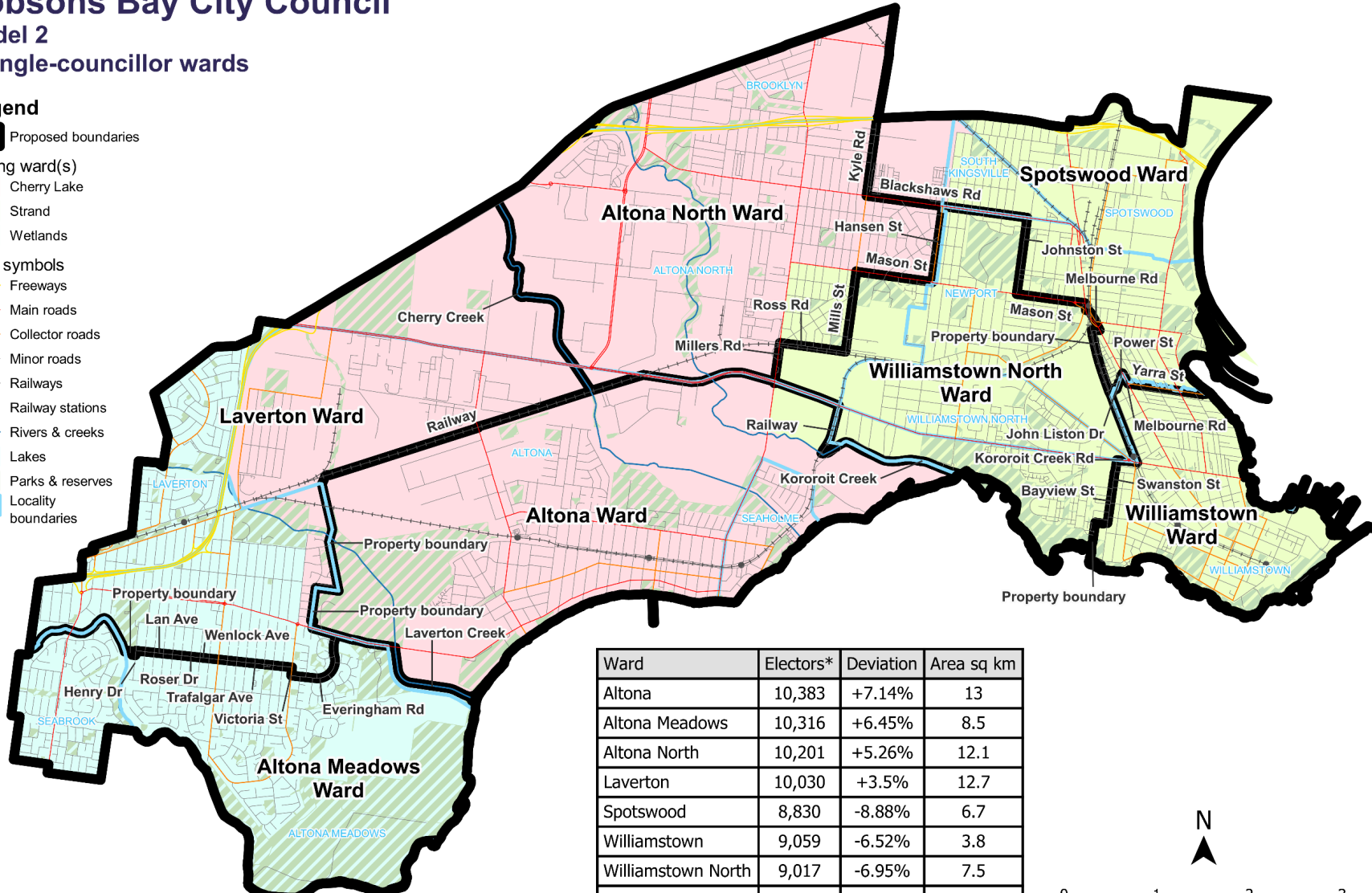
Railway stations

Rivers & creeks

Lakes

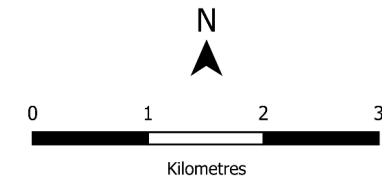
Parks & reserves

Locality boundaries



Ward	Electors*	Deviation	Area sq km
Altona	10,383	+7.14%	13
Altona Meadows	10,316	+6.45%	8.5
Altona North	10,201	+5.26%	12.1
Laverton	10,030	+3.5%	12.7
Spotswood	8,830	-8.88%	6.7
Williamstown	9,059	-6.52%	3.8
Williamstown North	9,017	-6.95%	7.5
Total	67,836		64.3
Average	9,691		9

*Elector numbers as at 25 July 2023



Data use:



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Data for Model 2

Ward	Electors*	Deviation	Area# (square km)
Altona	10,383	+7.14%	13
Altona Meadows	10,316	+6.45%	8.5
Altona North	10,201	+5.26%	12.1
Laverton	10,030	+3.5%	12.7
Spotswood	8,830	-8.88%	6.7
Williamstown	9,059	-6.52%	3.8
Williamstown North	9,017	-6.95%	7.5
Total	67,836	n/a	64.3
Average	9,691	n/a	9

*Elector numbers as at 25 July 2023

#Ward area (square km) and total council area is measured at level of accuracy required for electoral boundaries. This may vary slightly from other data sources (for example, the ABS).

Hobsons Bay City Council

Model 3

7 single-councillor wards

Legend

Proposed boundaries

Exiting ward(s)

Cherry Lake

Strand

Wetlands

Map symbols

Freeways

Main roads

Collector roads

Minor roads

Railways

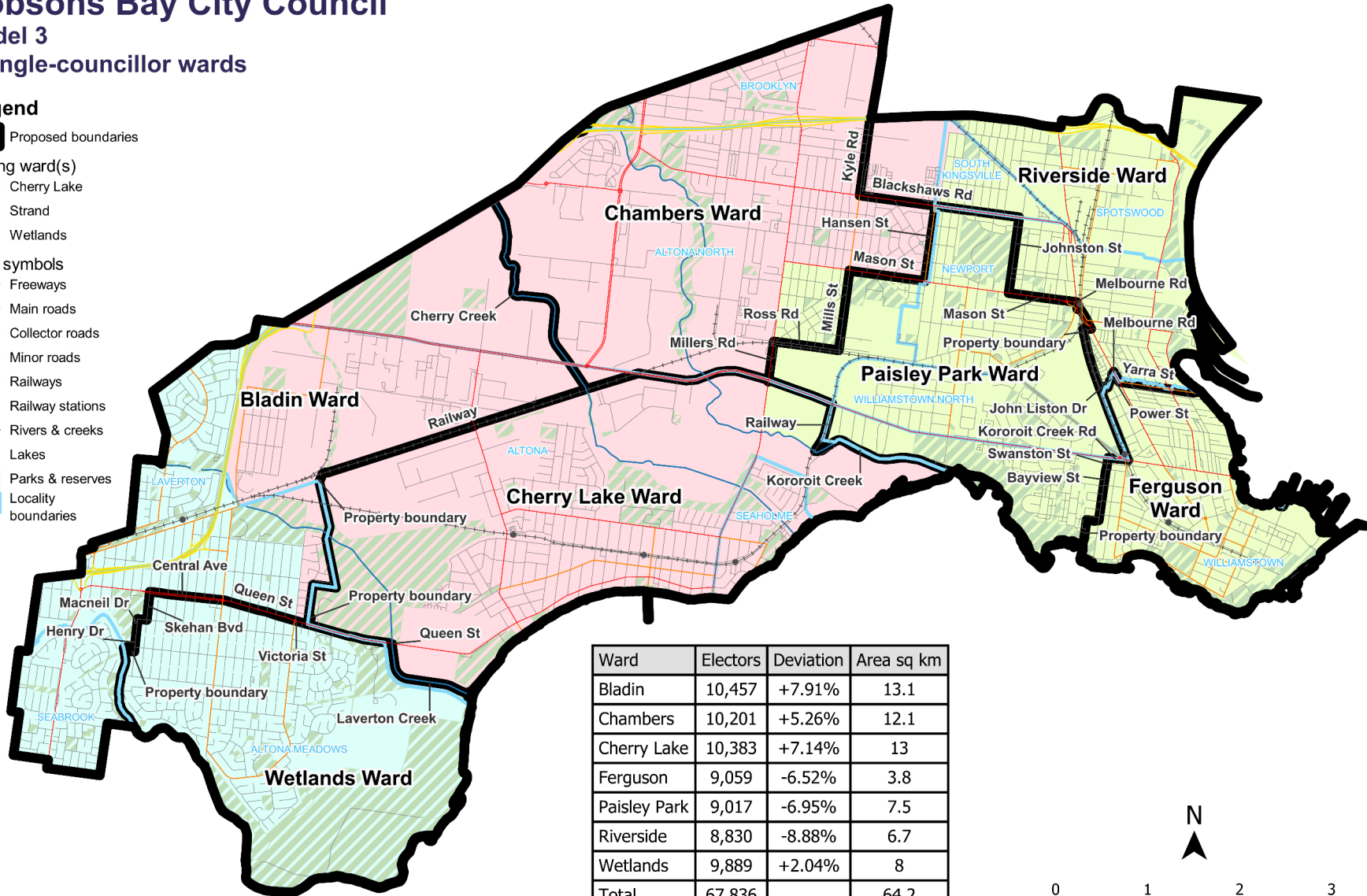
Railway stations

Rivers & creeks

Lakes

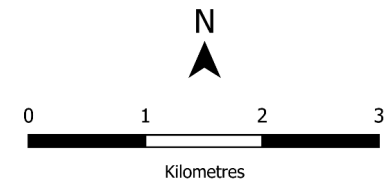
Parks & reserves

Locality boundaries



Ward	Electors	Deviation	Area sq km
Bladin	10,457	+7.91%	13.1
Chambers	10,201	+5.26%	12.1
Cherry Lake	10,383	+7.14%	13
Ferguson	9,059	-6.52%	3.8
Paisley Park	9,017	-6.95%	7.5
Riverside	8,830	-8.88%	6.7
Wetlands	9,889	+2.04%	8
Total	67,836		64.2
Average	9,691		9

*Elector numbers as at 25 July 2023



Data use:



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Data for Model 3

Ward	Electors*	Deviation	Area# (square km)
Bladin	10,457	+7.91%	13.1
Chambers	10,201	+5.26%	12.1
Cherry Lake	10,383	+7.14%	13
Ferguson	9,059	-6.52%	3.8
Paisley Park	9,017	-6.95%	7.5
Riverside	8,830	-8.88%	6.7
Wetlands	9,889	+2.04%	8
Total	67,836	n/a	64.2
Average	9,691	n/a	9

*Elector numbers as at 25 July 2023

#Ward area (square km) and total council area is measured at level of accuracy required for electoral boundaries. This may vary slightly from other data sources (for example, the ABS).

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