

Local council electoral structure review

About Mildura Rural City Council

The Traditional Custodians of the land in Mildura Rural City Council are the First Peoples of the Millewa-Mallee, being Latji Latji and Ngintait Traditional Owners and the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagalk peoples.

Located in the Mallee region about 550 km north-west of Melbourne, Mildura Rural City Council is the largest municipality in Victoria, covering an area of 22,082 km².

The Murray River forms the northern boundary of the council. More than half of the council area is covered by parkland, including the Hattah-Kulkyne, Murray-Sunset and Wyperfeld national parks. Much of the remaining land within the council is used for primary production, primarily of fruit, nuts and grain.

Major roads including the Sturt, Mallee, and Calder highways service the council area, as well as Mildura Airport – the state's largest and busiest regional airport.

Health care, agriculture, manufacturing and construction are major industries, both in terms of employment and economic output.

The council had a population of 56,972 in the 2021 Census and this is forecast to grow at an annual rate of 0.8% from 2022 to 2028. The median age of the population in 2021 was 40 years, lower than the median age for the whole of rural and regional Victoria, which is 43 years.

Mildura is culturally diverse, with approximately 14% of the population born overseas and approximately 12% speaking a language other than English at home in 2021. Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people comprised 4.5% of the population in 2021, higher than for rural and regional Victoria overall (2%).

Current structure

Mildura Rural City Council is an unsubdivided municipality with a total of 9 councillors.

About the review

Under Victoria's *Local Government Act 2020*, Mildura Rural City Council must now have a single-councillor ward electoral structure.

The Minister for Local Government has appointed an electoral representation advisory panel to conduct an electoral structure review of the council. The panel will advise the Minister on the most appropriate single-councillor ward structure for Mildura Rural City Council.

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 local council area better than anyone. This is your chance to let the panel know your thoughts about the single-councillor ward electoral structure that you believe would best provide representation for your community.

There are 2 opportunities for you to have your say on the electoral structure of the council:

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

Last review

The VEC conducted an electoral representation review of Mildura Rural City Council in 2015.

Visit the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au to access a copy of the 2015 review final report.

Review process

Monday 26 and Tuesday 27 June

Information sessions

Session 1: 12 noon, Monday 26 June

Session 2: 6 pm, Tuesday 27 June

Information sessions are for anyone wanting to find out more about the review process. Links to register for an information session will be available on the VEC website.

Wednesday 28 June

Preliminary report

The panel will release a preliminary report including one or more options for the electoral structure on Wednesday 28 June.

Response submissions open from this date.

Wednesday 19 July

Response submissions close

The panel must receive all submissions by 5 pm on Wednesday 19 July.

Late submissions will not be accepted.

Wednesday 26 July

Public hearing

The panel will hold an online public hearing if anyone requests to speak about their response submission at 2 pm on Wednesday 26 July.

The public hearing will not be held if there are no requests to speak.

Wednesday 23 August

Final report

The panel will submit a final report to the Minister for Local Government including its advice on the electoral structure on Wednesday 23 August.

The Minister will then consider the panel's advice before recommending a change to the electoral structure. Any change to the electoral structure of the council following the review is expected to apply at the next local council elections.

How to make a submission

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

@ By email to

Mildura.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.

All submissions will be published on the VEC website. Your name and locality (suburb or town) will be published, but your full address and contact details will be removed. See the submission guide and VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au/privacy for privacy information.

Submission guide

Download the submission guide from the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au for more information on the review process and making a submission.

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 within 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.

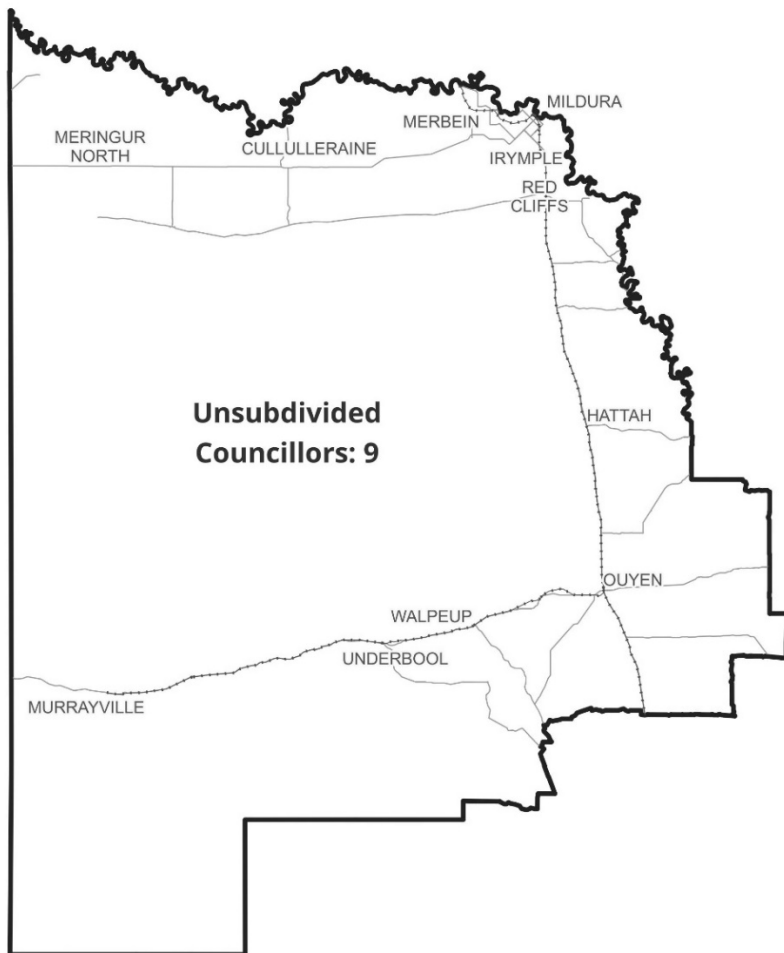
Current electoral structure

Voter Numbers by Current Boundaries

As at 30 March 2023

Councillors: 9

Total Voters: 42,932



Ward	Councillors	Voters	Deviation
Unsubdivided	9	42,932	n/a

Statistics

Area (km²) 22,082

Voters

Voters per square km

1.9

Average voters per councillor

4,770

Population

Current population

56,972

Forecast population growth

0.8% p.a.

Further census statistics available at abs.gov.au



Voter numbers by locality (map)

Mildura Rural City Council

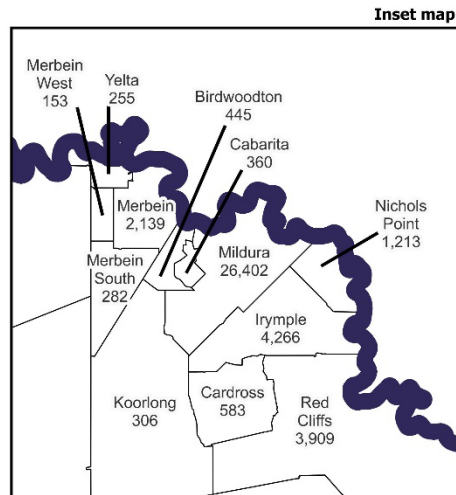
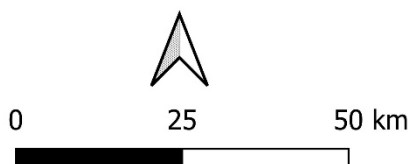
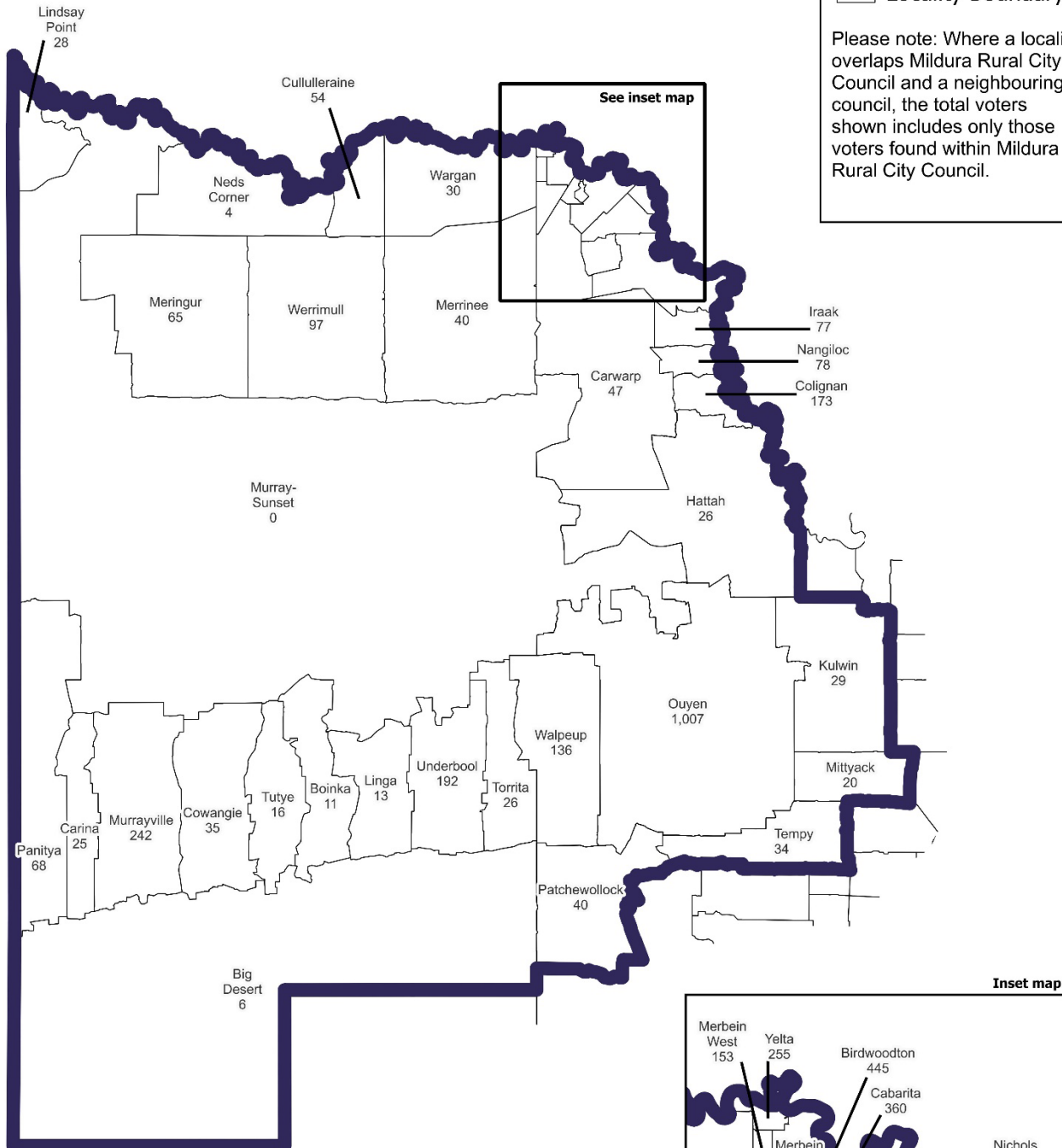
TOTAL VOTERS: 42,932

Voter numbers as at 30 March 2023

Legend

-  Council Boundary
-  Locality Boundary

Please note: Where a locality overlaps Mildura Rural City Council and a neighbouring council, the total voters shown includes only those voters found within Mildura Rural City Council.



Voter numbers by locality (table)

Mildura Rural City Council voter numbers at 30 March 2023

Locality	Voters
Big Desert	6
Birdwoodton	445
Boinka	11
Cabarita	360
Cardross	583
Carina	25
Carwarp	47
Colignan	173
Cowangie	35
Cullulleraine	54
Hattah	26
Iraak	77
Irymple	4,266
Koorlong	306
Kulwin	29
Lindsay Point	28
Linga	13
Merbein	2,139
Merbein South	282
Merbein West	153
Meringur	65
Merrinee	40

Locality	Voters
Mildura	26,402
Mittyack	20
Murray-Sunset	0
Murrayville	242
Nangiloc	78
Neds Corner	4
Nichols Point	1,213
Ouyen	1,007
Panitya	68
Patchewollock	40
Red Cliffs	3,909
Tempy	34
Torrita	26
Tutye	16
Underbool	192
Walpeup	136
Wargan	30
Werrimull	97
Yelta	255