

Local council electoral structure review

Preliminary Report

Greater Shepparton City Council

July 2023

Acknowledgement of Country

The electoral representation advisory panel acknowledges the Yorta Yorta peoples 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 Greater Shepparton 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), Greater Shepparton 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 Greater Shepparton City Council to meet the requirements of the Act.

More information about the background to the review 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.

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

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 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 26 July. If any response submitters wish to speak at a public hearing, the panel will hold an online public hearing on Tuesday 1 August. Following this, the panel will present its final recommendation to the Minister on Wednesday 30 August 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 Greater Shepparton City Council) must now have single-councillor ward electoral structures.

For Greater Shepparton 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 Greater Shepparton City Council has 3 members:

Panel 1

- The Honourable Frank Vincent AO KC (Chairperson)
- Ms Liz Williams PSM
- Acting Deputy Electoral Commissioner Ms Máiréad Doyle.

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 Greater Shepparton 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 Greater Shepparton 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 Greater Shepparton 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 Greater Shepparton 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 Greater Shepparton City Council

Profile

Greater Shepparton City Council is in north-eastern Victoria and covers an area of 2,422 km². It is bounded by Campaspe Shire in the west, Moira Shire in the north, Benalla Rural City in the east, and Strathbogie Shire in the south. The Traditional Custodians of the Shepparton area are the Yorta Yorta peoples.

Landscape

The city of Shepparton is the main and central focus of the council area. With a population of 49,862 (including Mooroopna on the fringe to the west and Kialla to the south) it is home to 72.8% of the residents and is the commercial and administrative hub in the region (ABS 2022a). Tatura in the west is the second biggest locality, with a population of 4,955 (ABS 2022b). Other smaller localities surrounding Shepparton include Dookie, Katandra West, Tallygaroopna, Merrigum, Toolamba, Murchison, Kialla West and Shepparton East.

The major geographic feature of the council is the Goulburn River, which runs north to south, with Broken River and Seven Creeks meeting it just south of Shepparton. The council area is serviced by the Goulburn Valley Highway, which runs north to south, and the Midland Highway which runs east to west.

Community

At the 2021 census, Greater Shepparton's population was 68,409 (ABS 2022c), a significant increase from 63,837 in 2016 and 60,449 in 2011 (ABS 2011, 2016). From 2022 to 2028, this is projected to increase to 73,074. The median age of residents is 39, lower than the median of 43 found in regional Victoria but greater than the state median of 38 (ABS 2022b, 2022d, 2022e).

Of the population, 75% were born in Australia and 74.7% speak only English at home, lower than the respective rates of 81% and 86.4% for regional Victoria (ABS 2022c, 2022d). The number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at the 2021 census was 2,686 or 3.9% of the population, nearly double the regional Victoria figure of 2% (ABS 2022c, 2022d).

The major industries in Greater Shepparton are manufacturing, construction, and agriculture, which combined account for over 50% of economic output in the council area (.id 2023a). In 2021-2022, Greater Shepparton's gross regional product was \$4.14 billion (.id 2023b).

Home ownership is common in Greater Shepparton, with 34.3% owning their property outright, and a further 33.3% owning with a mortgage. This contrasts to the regional Victoria average rates of 39.3% outright ownership, and 33.2% owned with a mortgage, with more people renting in Greater Shepparton (27.8%) than in regional Victoria (23.6%) (ABS 2022c, 2022d).

The weekly median income of Greater Shepparton is \$1,400, slightly higher than the weekly median of \$1,386 for regional Victoria (ABS 2022c, 2022d).

Current number of councillors and electoral structure

Greater Shepparton City Council is currently unsubdivided with a total of 9 councillors:

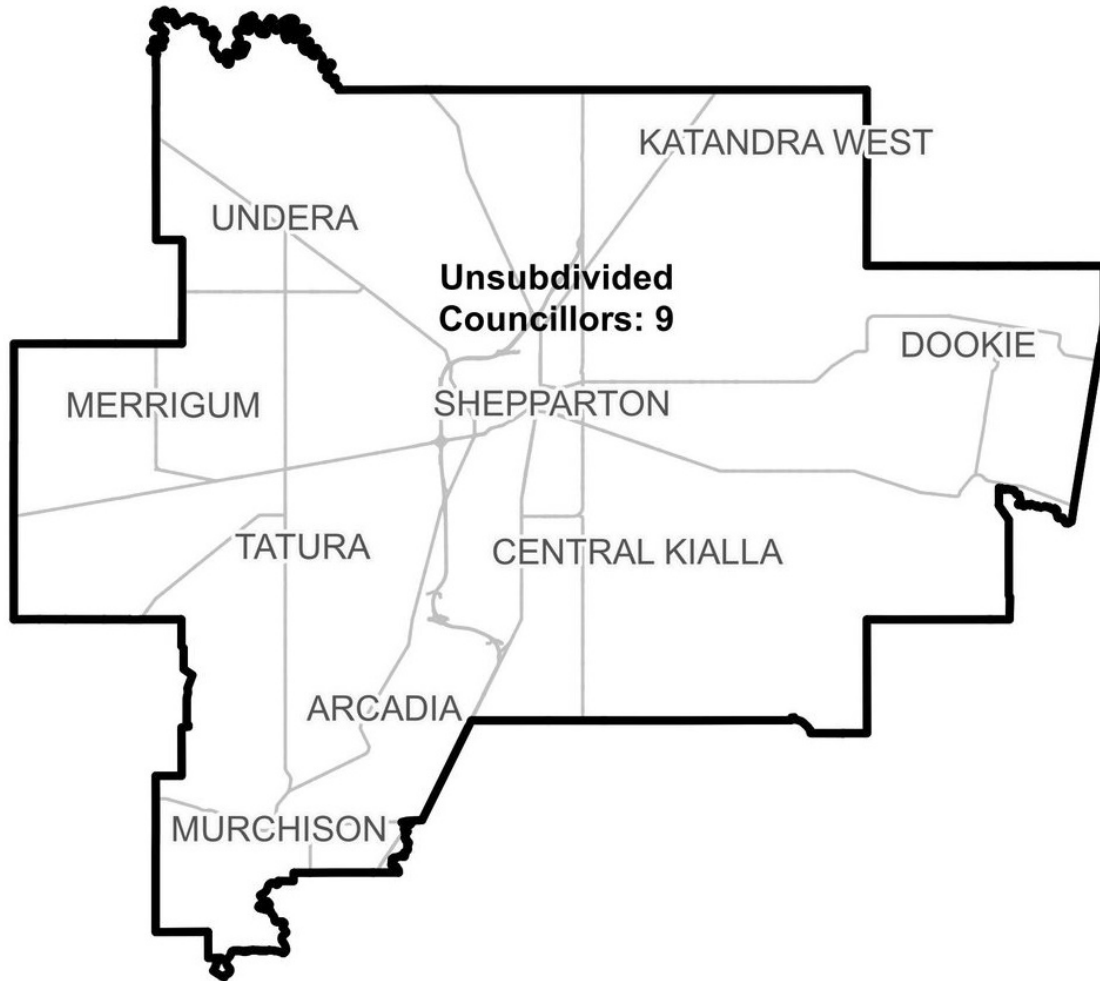


Figure 1: Diagram of current electoral structure of Greater Shepparton City Council.

There are approximately 46,959 voters in Greater Shepparton City Council, with an approximate ratio of 5,217 voters per councillor.

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

Last electoral structure review

The VEC conducted an electoral representation review of Greater Shepparton City Council in 2015. 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 Greater Shepparton City Council continue to be unsubdivided, but to increase the councillor numbers to 9.

Visit the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au to access a copy of the 2015 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 Greater Shepparton City Council.

The panel considered the characteristics of Greater Shepparton 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 Greater Shepparton 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
Wangaratta Rural City*	3,645	23,267	29,808	23,904	7	3,414

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

Maintaining 9 councillors

The panel considers maintaining 9 councillors to be the most appropriate option for Greater Shepparton City Council. The council currently has 46,959 voters represented by 9 councillors and covers an area of 2,422 km². Other regional city councils with a similar number of voters usually also have 9 councillors, such as Latrobe City Council and Mildura Rural City Council. Greater Shepparton City Council increased from 7 councillors at the last review in 2015, due in part to a growing population which placed it in line with comparable 9 councillor councils. As Greater Shepparton is now at the lower end of councils with 9 councillors and is expecting a relatively steady rate of growth over the next decade, 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 Greater Shepparton City Council, the appropriateness of ward boundaries, and which models best offered 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 2 models have been put forward for further public comment.

The panel proposes 2 models for the consideration of the Greater Shepparton 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, Greater Shepparton 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 approach taken in Model 1 was to divide the council to the furthest extent possible into suburban-focused and rural-focused wards.

In this model, Shepparton is split into 5 wards. Yahna Gurtji Ward provides representation for central Shepparton including the CBD and the suburban area north of Broken River. Flinders Park Ward captures the north-western suburban area and retirement precinct, while the Showgrounds Ward captures the north-eastern suburban area including the Shepparton Showgrounds and college precinct. Poplar Ward takes in the south-eastern suburban area between the Midland Highway and Broken River, as well as the peri-urban locality of Orrvale. Kialla Ward captures the Shepparton urban area south of Broken River using River Road as a southern boundary and includes the Botanic Gardens and Shepparton Aerodrome.

In the rural areas, the panel attempted to keep communities together in the one ward. This was possible in the west with the communities of Tatura and Merrigum being kept together in Midland Ward, including surrounding agricultural land. Similarly, Pine Lodge Ward in the north-east of the council area includes the towns of Congupna, Tallygaroopna, Katandra West, and Dookie, and uses the strong boundaries of the Goulburn and Broken Rivers. However, the ward needed to include areas on the outskirts of Shepparton North, to ensure enough voters were in the ward to satisfy the +/-10% requirement.

With a population close to 8,000, Mooroopna, just west of Shepparton, is forecast to have 6,000 voters by the October 2024 council election – more than 10% above the average of 5,217 permitted per ward based on the +/- 10% requirement. It was therefore necessary to split this community into 2 wards along the Midland Highway, a recognisable feature of the area and a

strong and sensible boundary. The proposed Goulburn River Ward takes in the area of Mooroopna south of the Midland Highway, and then extends into the southern rural areas of the council area including the towns of Murchison and Toolamba. Lower Goulburn Ward captures the Mooroopna area north of the Midland Highway and takes in the council's northern rural area between the Goulburn River and Echuca and Minchin Roads.

The panel considered the benefits of this model to be:

- the use of strong, recognisable road and geographic features as boundaries
- creating wards to have either a suburban or rural focus to reflect the council's communities of interest (and the boundaries proposed for dividing the town of Shepparton likewise provided 5 roughly equal wards using strong features as boundaries)
- it is the most stable model when considering the +/-10% requirement rule.

Conversely, some drawbacks were identified. Splitting Mooroopna, although unavoidable given the size of its population, would potentially divide this community. Similarly, including the growth areas of Shepparton North and Shepparton East in rural wards, though necessary, is a potential drawback. As such, the panel is interested in public feedback regarding this model.

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

Under this model, Greater Shepparton 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 approach taken in Model 2 was to create wards that combined rural with suburban areas. As such, many of the wards capture parts of Shepparton's suburban fringe and extend out to incorporate geographically adjacent rural areas. The strength of this model is that it provides a relatively balanced representation of both suburban and rural voters and interests in each ward.

In this model, Shepparton is split into 6 wards, with the 2 northernmost wards extending further north and eastern wards likewise expanding eastwards as follows:

- Tallygaroopna Ward takes in the suburban area in the north-west of Shepparton and extends north to include the town of Tallygaroopna.
- Congupna Ward includes the suburban area in north-east of Shepparton and extends north-east to capture the towns of Congupna and Katandra West.
- Mount Major Ward takes in the suburban and industrial areas in the east of Shepparton, extending into the rural east to capture Grahamvale, Orrvale, Shepparton East, and the town of Dookie.

An additional 3 wards capture the southern and central parts of Shepparton:

- Kalinga Park Ward takes in the southern Shepparton suburban area north of Broken River

- Kialla Ward captures the Kialla area of Shepparton south of Broken River, including Shepparton Aerodrome
- Yahna Gurtji Ward captures central Shepparton including the CBD and Showgrounds, using MacIntosh Street as its southern boundary.

Mooroopna is split across wards using the Midland Highway in the same way as Model 1 and both the Goulburn River Ward and Lower Goulburn Ward are the same. Midland Ward captures the large town of Tatura and the surrounding western rural areas of the council, including the town of Merrigum, as it does in Model 1.

The panel considered this model to have similar benefits in providing fair and equitable representation to voters compared with Model 1. The model uses similarly strong, recognisable road and geographic feature boundaries, differing only in the division of Shepparton. Model 2 differs to a greater degree in the combination of rural and suburban areas within wards. This was considered a potential benefit in aligning and balancing the council's main interests, but possible drawbacks might arise where such interests do not align or balance. Model 2 splits Mooroopna in the same way and uses where possible strong ward boundaries. Finally, Model 2 was also shown to be stable when considering the +/-10% requirement rule.

Models considered but not put forward

A single-councillor ward structure with 7 councillors

The panel considered a single-councillor ward structure with 7 councillors. This structure appeared to capture communities of interest well, including placing the entirety of Mooroopna in a single ward. However, the panel had serious reservations about decreasing councillor numbers to 7. It noted that Greater Shepparton City only recently increased to 9 councillors in 2015, up from the 7 maintained since amalgamation in 1994. The reason for increasing to 9 councillors in 2015 was due to comparable councils having 9 councillors and the council's growth profile. The panel noted that the rationale for having 9 councillors had not changed since 2015 and therefore found no justification for decreasing councillor numbers back to 7.

Summary

In summary, introducing single-councillor wards represents a large electoral change for Greater Shepparton 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. Model 1 attempts to create wards that keep suburban Shepparton and rural areas relatively separated, while Model 2 attempts to make wards that blend the Shepparton fringe suburban area with adjacent rural areas. Both have advantages and drawbacks, and the panel now welcomes public feedback and suggestions for improvement.

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

Model 1

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

Ward names: Flinders Ward, Goulburn River Ward, Kialla Ward, Lower Goulburn Ward, Midland Ward, Pine Lodge Ward, Poplar Ward, Showgrounds Ward, Yanha Gurtji Ward

Model 2

Greater Shepparton City Council has 9 councillors and is divided into 9 wards with one councillor per ward, with different boundaries to Model 1.

Ward names: Congupna Ward, Goulburn River Ward, Kalinga Ward, Kialla Ward, Lower Goulburn Ward, Midland Ward, Mount Major Ward, Tallygaroopna Ward, Yanha Gurtji 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

All ward names are new and are based on natural features or localities found within each ward.

Model 2

All 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>GreaterShepparton.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 26 July 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 1 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 30 August 2023. The Minister will consider the final reports, including any determination to make the reports publicly available. Any change to the electoral structure of Greater Shepparton 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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— (2023b) [Shepparton, Gross Regional Product](#), .id website, accessed 6 June 2023.

ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) (2022a) [2021 Census All Person Quickstats, Shepparton-Mooroopna](#), ABS website, accessed 6 June 2023.

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— (2011) [2011 Census All Person Quickstats, Greater Shepparton](#), ABS website, accessed 6 June 2023.

Geographic Place Names Act 1998 (Vic)

Local Government Act 1989 (Vic)

Local Government Act 2020 (Vic)

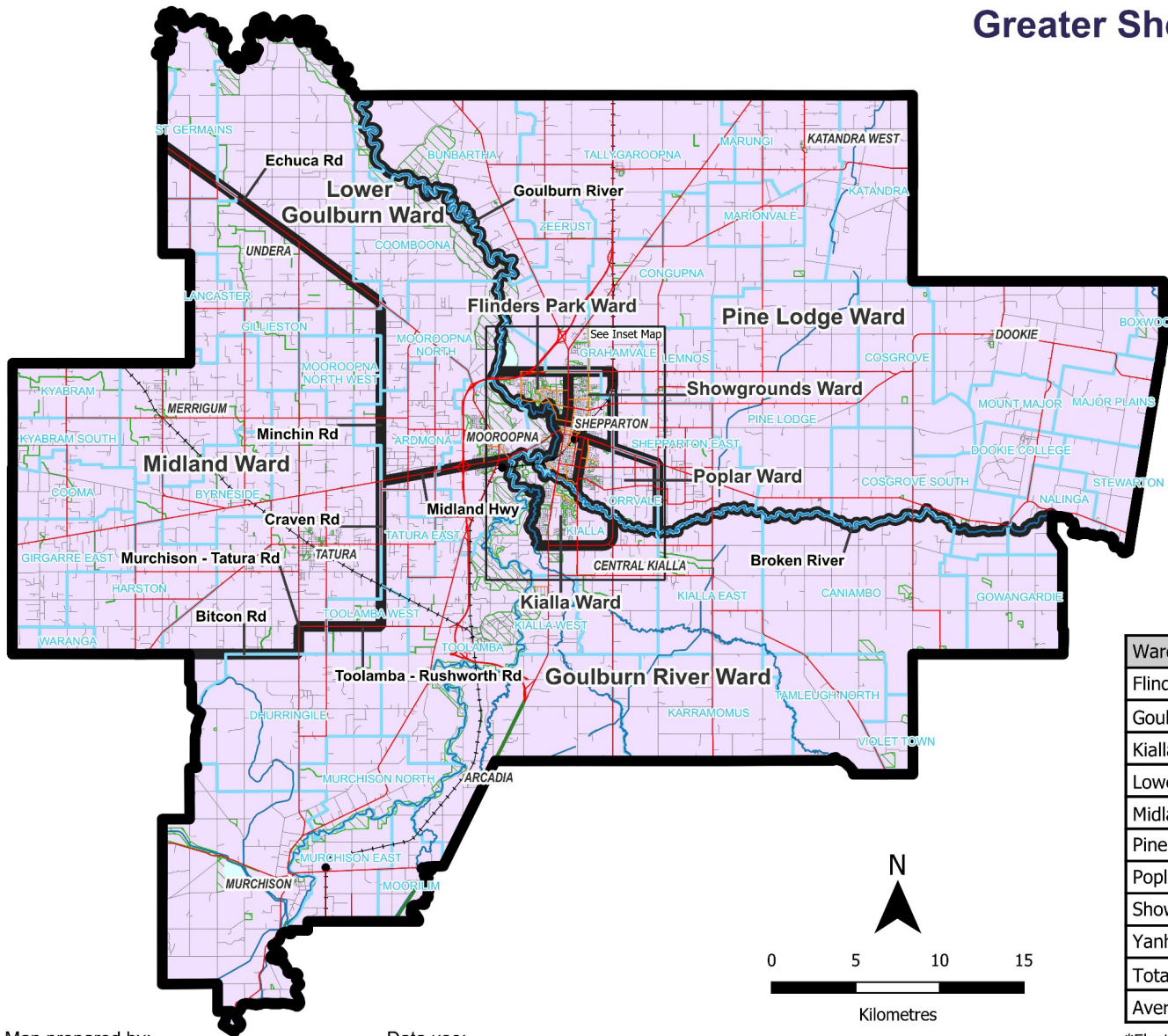
Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020 (Vic)

Appendix 1: Model maps

The following maps are included in this report:

Map	Page
Model 1 – a single-councillor ward structure with 9 councillors – 9 wards with one councillor per ward.	21
Model 2 – a single-councillor ward structure with 9 councillors – 9 wards with one councillor per ward (with boundaries different to Model 1).	23

Greater Shepparton City Council Model 1 9 single-councillor wards



Ward	Electors*	Deviation	Area sq km
Flinders Park	5,397	+3.44%	9
Goulburn River	4,976	-4.63%	818
Kialla	5,161	-1.09%	18
Lower Goulburn	5,248	+0.58%	259
Midland	5,216	-0.03%	471
Pine Lodge	5,120	-1.87%	810
Poplar	4,860	-6.85%	19
Showgrounds	5,388	+3.26%	10
Yanha Gurtji	5,593	+7.19%	7
Total	46,959		2,421
Average	5,218		269

*Elector numbers as at 30 March 2023

Map prepared by:

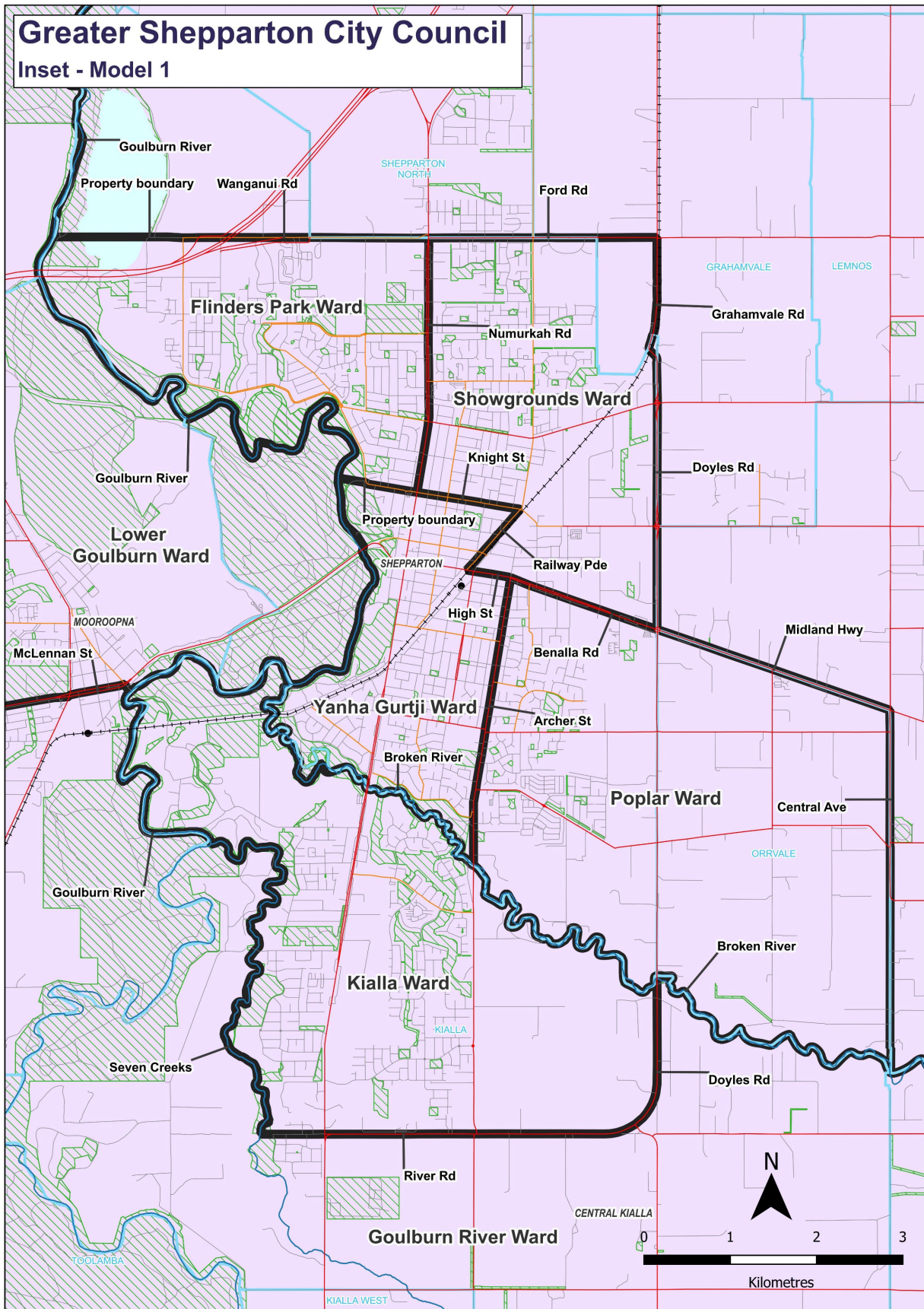


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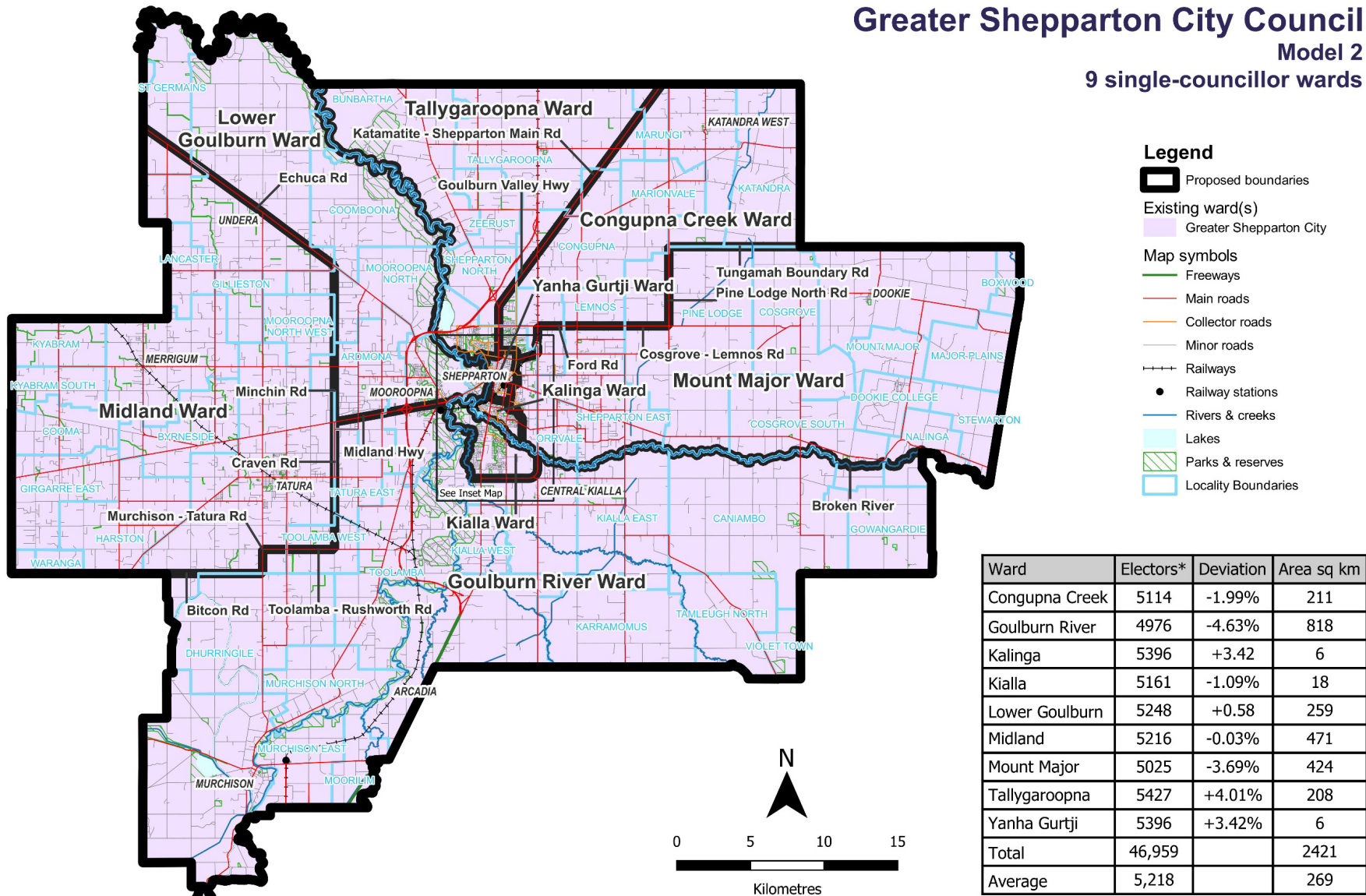


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Greater Shepparton City Council Model 2 9 single-councillor wards



Ward	Electors*	Deviation	Area sq km
Congupna Creek	5114	-1.99%	211
Goulburn River	4976	-4.63%	818
Kalinga	5396	+3.42	6
Kialla	5161	-1.09%	18
Lower Goulburn	5248	+0.58	259
Midland	5216	-0.03%	471
Mount Major	5025	-3.69%	424
Tallygaroopna	5427	+4.01%	208
Yanha Gurtji	5396	+3.42%	6
Total	46,959		2421
Average	5,218		269

*Elector numbers as at 30 March 2023

Map prepared by:

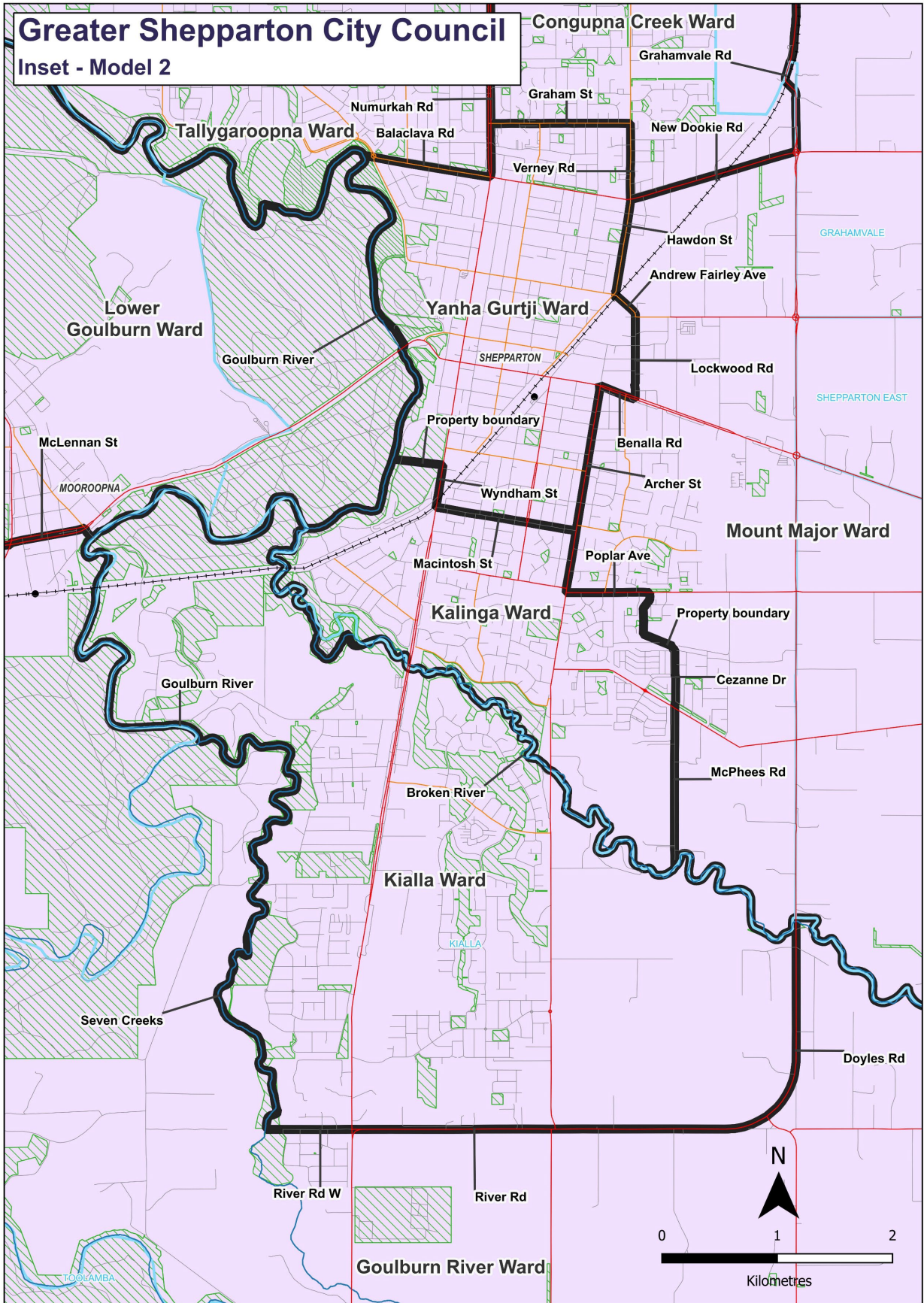


Data use:



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