

# Local council ward boundary review

## About Wellington Shire Council

The Traditional Custodians of the land in Wellington Shire Council area are the Gunaikurnai and Taungurung peoples.

Wellington Shire Council is located in the Gippsland region of eastern Victoria, stretching from Victoria's high country in the north to southern beaches and Bass Strait. With an area of 11,000 km<sup>2</sup>, it is the third largest council in Victoria by area.

From a population of 45,639 in 2021, Wellington Shire Council is expected to grow to over 57,000 by 2041. Over 60% of people live in Sale and the towns of Heyfield, Maffra, Rosedale, Stratford and Yarram. Smaller townships include Port Albert, Seaspray, Loch Sport, Licola and Dargo.

The council area is predominantly rural, with agriculture, forestry and oil and gas being major economic drivers. Healthcare and social assistance, defence and tourism also contribute significantly to the local economy. Emerging industries include renewable energy and sustainable agriculture.

Wellington Shire Council is home to many environmentally significant areas, including the Alpine National Park, Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park, the Strzelecki Ranges, Ninety Mile Beach and many rivers, lakes, wetlands and coastal areas. Over 26% of the council area is in public ownership.

The median age of residents in 2021 was 44, higher than the Victorian average of 38. The average household size of 2.3 persons was lower than the Victorian average of 2.5. Over 80% of people were born in Australia and the most common industries of employment for residents were hospitals, dairy cattle farming, defence and primary education.

### Current structure

Wellington Shire Council is divided into 3 wards with 3 councillors per ward. There are 9 councillors in total.

### About the review

If a council is subdivided into wards, the number of voters in each ward should be within +/-10% of the average across all wards to comply with the *Local Government Act 2020 (Vic)*.

Changes to the population, location of housing areas, and voting entitlements all impact the number of voters in wards.

In accordance with section 17 of the Act, the Minister for Local Government has asked the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) to review the ward boundaries for Wellington Shire Council.

Adjusting ward boundaries aims to ensure voters are represented equally at the next council general election.

During its review, the VEC will look at Wellington Shire Council's:

- enrolled voter numbers
- projected voter numbers
- ward boundary locations.

As a local you know your council area better than anyone. You can have your say on the suggested ward boundary adjustments:

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

### Last review

The VEC conducted an electoral representation review of Wellington Shire Council in 2015.

Visit the VEC website at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au) to access a copy of the 2015 review final report.

# Review process

## Monday 12 and Tuesday 13 February

### Information sessions

Session 1: 12 noon, Monday 12 February

Session 2: 12 noon, Tuesday 13 February

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

## Wednesday 14 February

### Preliminary report

The VEC will release a preliminary report with one or more options for the ward boundaries on Wednesday 14 February.

**You can make a response submission from this date.**

## Wednesday 6 March

### Response submissions

The VEC must receive your submission by 5 pm on Wednesday 6 March.

The VEC will not accept late submissions.

## Friday 15 March

### Public hearing

The VEC will hold an online public hearing if anyone asks to speak about their response submission at 10 am on Friday 15 March.

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

## Wednesday 10 April

### Final report

The VEC will submit a final report to the Minister for Local Government including its advice for the adjustments to ward boundaries on Wednesday 10 April.

The minister will consider the VEC's advice regarding the adjustments. Any change is expected to apply at the next local council general election.

## Submission guide


You can download a submission guide from the VEC website at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au)

## How to make a submission

 On the VEC website at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au)

@ By email to:

[Wellington.WardReview@vec.vic.gov.au](mailto:Wellington.WardReview@vec.vic.gov.au)

 By post to:

Ward boundary review panel  
Victorian Electoral Commission  
Level 11, 530 Collins St  
Melbourne VIC 3000

Submissions must include your:

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

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

## One vote, one value

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

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

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

If you make a submission online, you can use a mapping tool to build your preferred ward boundaries. The tool uses current voter numbers to tell you the deviations of the wards you make. This will help your proposal meet the requirements of the Act.

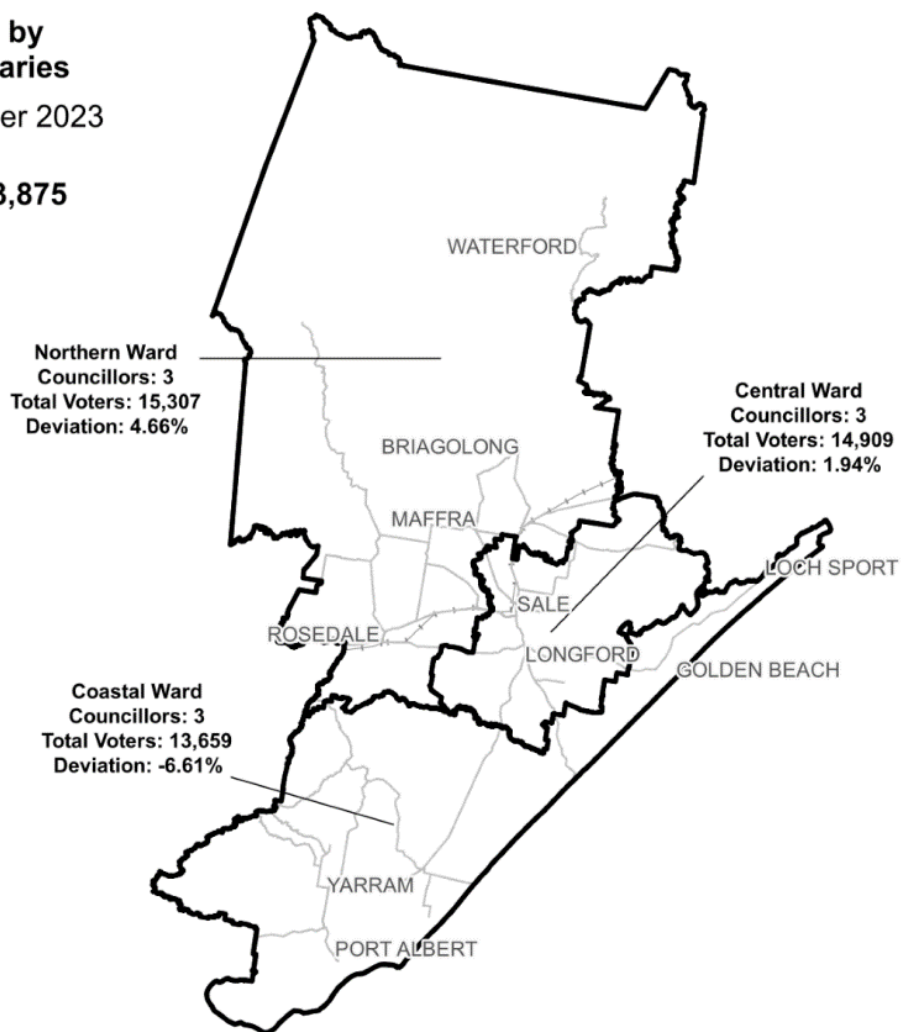
# Current electoral structure

## Voter Numbers by Current Boundaries

As at 3 November 2023

**Councillors: 9**

**Total Voters: 43,875**



Ward	Councillors	Voters	Deviation
Central Ward*	3	15,307	+1.94%
Coastal Ward*	3	13,659	-6.61%
Northern Ward*	3	14,909	+4.66%

\*The deviations of these wards are forecast to be outside of +/-10% by October 2024.

## Statistics

Area (km<sup>2</sup>) 11,009

### Voters

**Voters per square km**

4

**Average voters per councillor**

4,875

### Population

**Current population**

45,639

**Forecast population growth**

0.9% p.a.

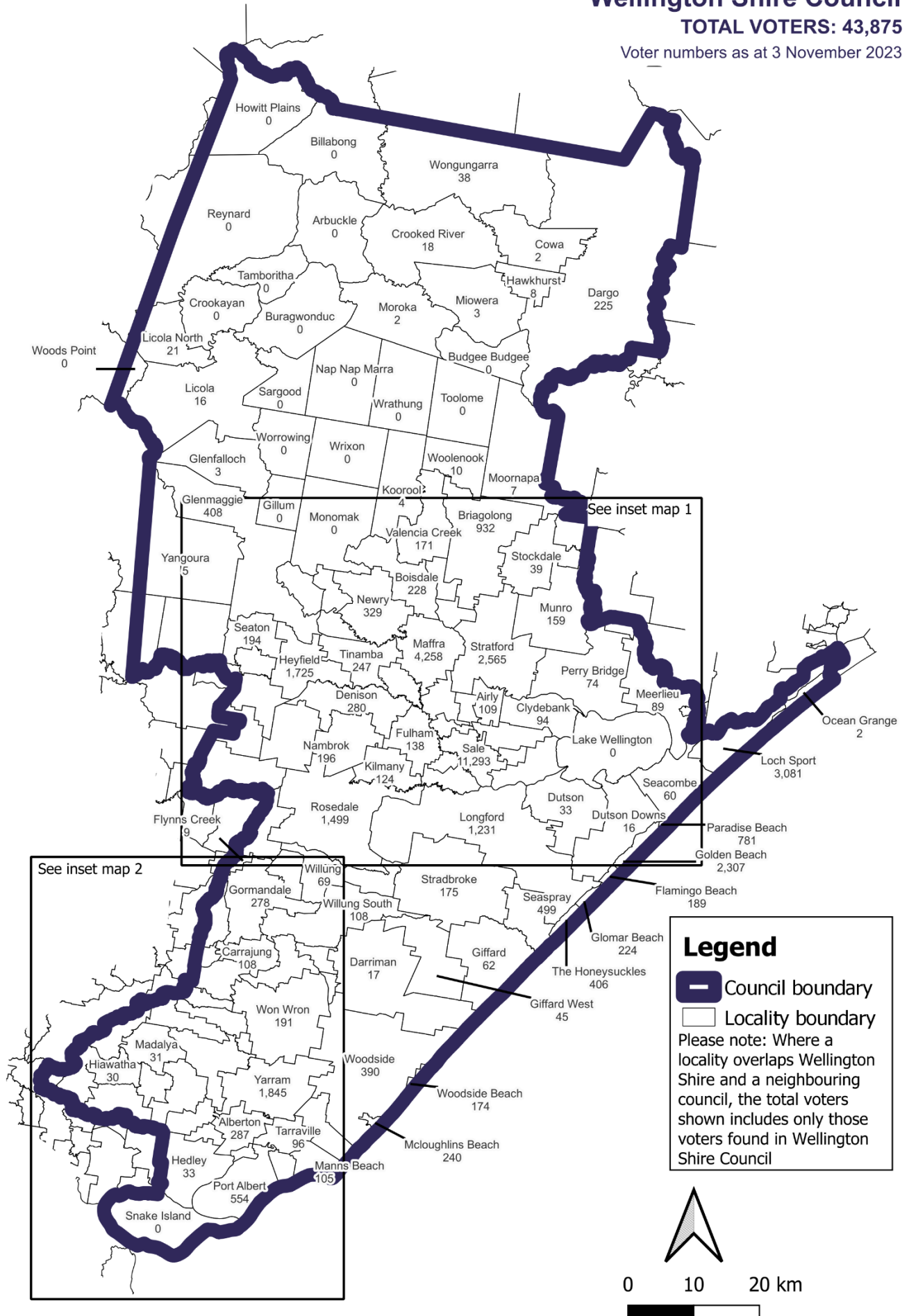
More Census statistics available at [abs.gov.au](https://abs.gov.au)

# Voter numbers by locality (map)

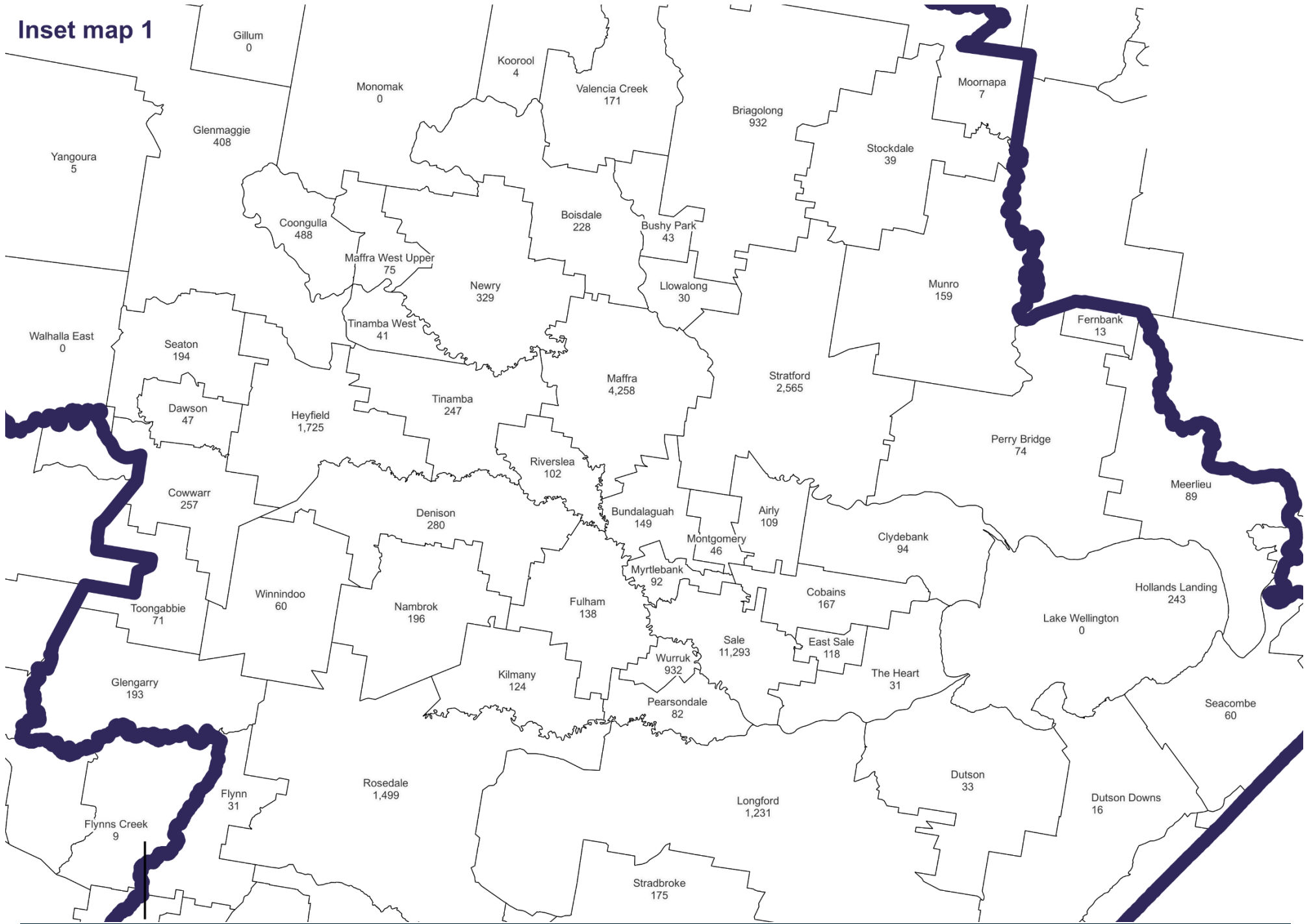
**Wellington Shire Council**

**TOTAL VOTERS: 43,875**

Voter numbers as at 3 November 2023

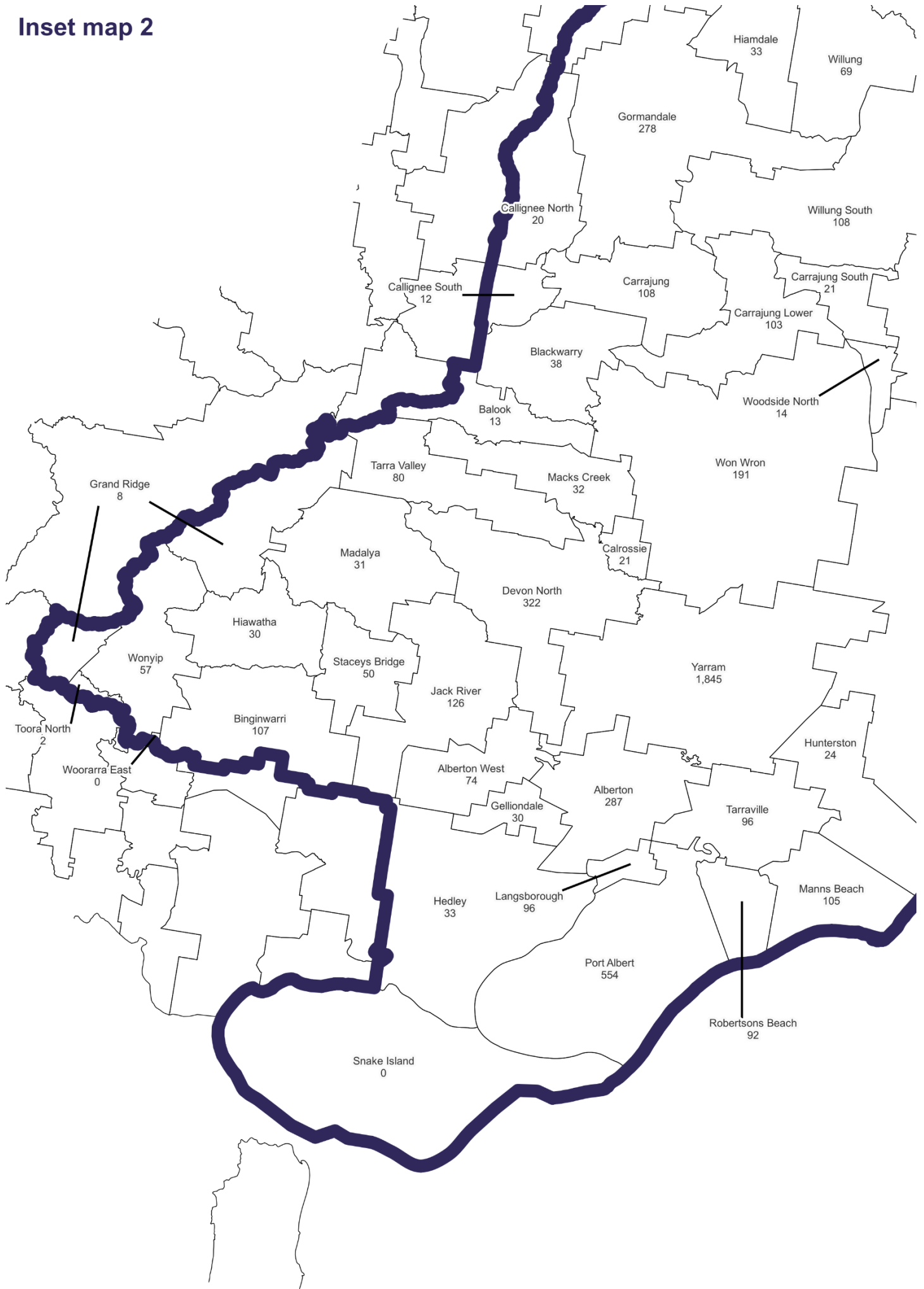


**Inset map 1**





## Inset map 2



## Voter numbers by locality (table)

### Wellington Shire Council voter numbers at 3 November 2023

Locality	Voters
Airly	109
Alberton	287
Alberton West	74
Arbuckle	0
Balook	13
Billabong	0
Binginwarri	107
Blackwarry	38
Boisdale	228
Briagolong	932
Budgee Budgee	0
Bundalaguah	149
Buragwonduc	0
Bushy Park	43
Callignee North	20
Callignee South	12
Calrossie	21
Carrajung	108
Carrajung Lower	103
Carrajung South	21
Clydebank	94
Cobains	167

Locality	Voters
Coongulla	488
Cowa	2
Cowwarr	257
Crookayan	0
Crooked River	18
Dargo	225
Darriman	17
Dawson	47
Denison	280
Devon North	322
Dutson	33
Dutson Downs	16
East Sale	118
Fernbank	13
Flamingo Beach	189
Flynn	31
Flynns Creek	9
Fulham	138
Gelliondale	30
Giffard	62
Giffard West	45
Gillum	0

Locality	Voters
Glenfalloch	3
Glengarry	193
Glenmaggie	408
Glomar Beach	224
Golden Beach	2,307
Gormandale	278
Grand Ridge	8
Hawkhurst	8
Hedley	33
Heyfield	1,725
Hiamdale	33
Hiawatha	30
Hollands Landing	243
Howitt Plains	0
Hunterston	24
Jack River	126
Kilmany	124
Koorool	4
Lake Wellington	0
Langsborough	96
Licola	16
Licola North	21

Locality	Voters
Llowalong	30
Loch Sport	3,081
Longford	1,231
Macks Creek	32
Madalya	31
Maffra	4,258
Maffra West Upper	75
Manns Beach	105
Mcloughlins Beach	240
Meerlieu	89
Miowera	3
Monomak	0
Montgomery	46
Moornapa	7
Moroka	2
Munro	159
Myrtlebank	92
Nambrok	196
Nap Nap Marra	0
Newry	329
Ocean Grange	2
Paradise Beach	781
Pearsondale	82

Locality	Voters
Perry Bridge	74
Port Albert	554
Reynard	0
Riverslea	102
Robertsons Beach	92
Rosedale	1,499
Sale	11,293
Sargood	0
Seacombe	60
Seaspray	499
Seaton	194
Snake Island	0
Staceys Bridge	50
Stockdale	39
Stradbroke	175
Stratford	2,565
Tamboritha	0
Tarra Valley	80
Tarraville	96
The Heart	31
The Honeysuckles	406
Tinamba	247
Tinamba West	41

Locality	Voters
Toolome	0
Toongabbie	71
Toora North	2
Valencia Creek	171
Walhalla	0
Walhalla East	0
Willung	69
Willung South	108
Winnindoo	60
Won Wron	191
Wongungarra	38
Wonyip	57
Woods Point	0
Woodside	390
Woodside Beach	174
Woodside North	14
Woolenook	10
Worrowing	0
Wrathung	0
Wrixon	0
Wurruk	932
Yangoura	5
Yarram	1,845